Sandigan blamed for delay in Erap's arrest

STORY ON PAGE A2

₱15

Don't mess around with Ping, or else...

BARILAN 'TO PAG NAG-KATAON!

BY DONA Z. PAZZIBUGAN

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet—Don't mess with Panfilo "Ping" Lacson, former police chief and now senatorial candidate of the

DON'T/ A17

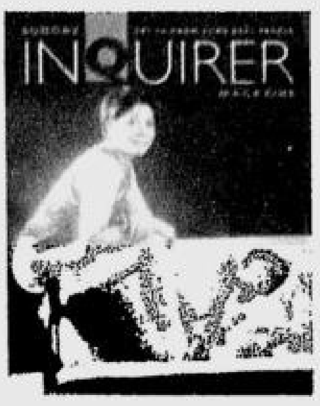
e-mail: feedback@inquirer.com.ph website: www.inquirer.net

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLES

APRIL 15, 2001 ★ ★ 86 PAGES 8 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 126

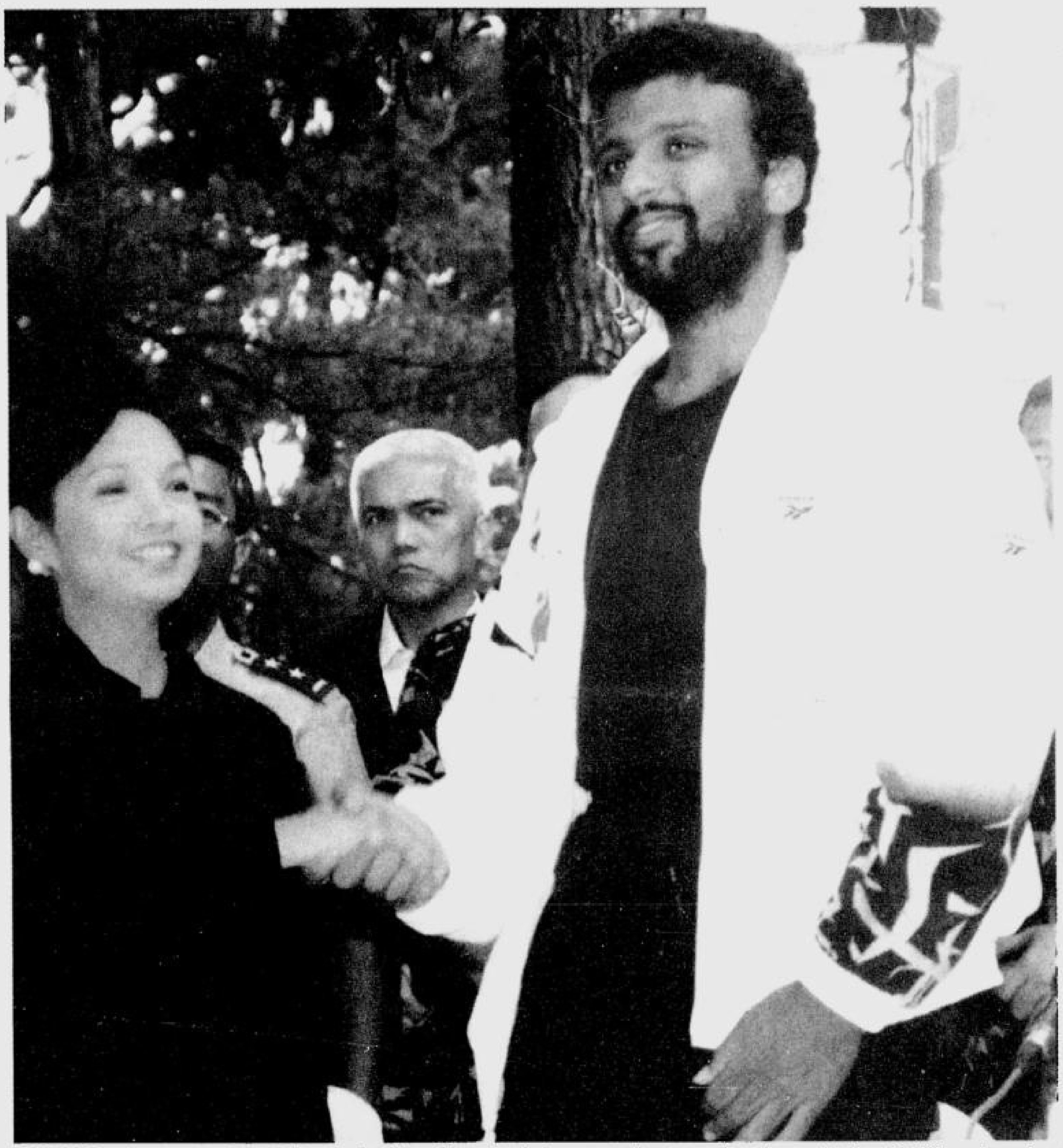
TODAY IN THE



Lydia de Vega-Mercado: Rising above, beyond tragedy

Schilling heads for home

Gloria praises Task Force Comet for Maundy Thursday rescue



EASTER Sunday came on Good Friday for President Macapagal who was exultant over the release of Jeffrey Schilling, shown here meeting the President in Baguio City. A "triumph of good over evil," she said. TOOTS SOBERANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

BY VINCENT CABREZA
FRANK CIMATU
AND DONNA S. CUETO

"A FREE man bound for home" was how one US diplomat described American hostage Jeffrey Schilling after his rescue Thursday from almost eight months in captivity in the jungles of Sulu.

But Philippine and US authorities will question the 25-year-old Muslim convert about his lengthy ordeal in the hands of the Abu Sayyaf before sending him home to Oakland, California, another US Embassy official said yesterday.

"He'll be resting. He'll be getting debriefed by the embassy and the Philippine government . . . and when that's over, he'll head for home," US Embassy spokesperson Michael Anderson said.

Anderson declined to say what the Philippine and US authorities want to find out, but said Schilling was "cooperating" and would be in Manila "at least another day."

Anderson said the two governments are "interested because (the Abu Sayyaf is) a terrorist group . . . The US government and the Philippine government share a common interest in opposing terrorism, combating it, and so we're cooperating and working with them."

Troops found Schilling barefoot and pockmarked with mosquito bites when they rescued him Thursday in Lu'uk town on Jolo island in Sulu. The troops found him chained in a hut, freed him and took him to a military base. *(See story of rescue on Page A18.)*

Schilling was flown to Manila yesterday from Baguio City, where he arrived the previous day to meet President Macapagal-Arroyo, who was there on a Holy Week retreat.

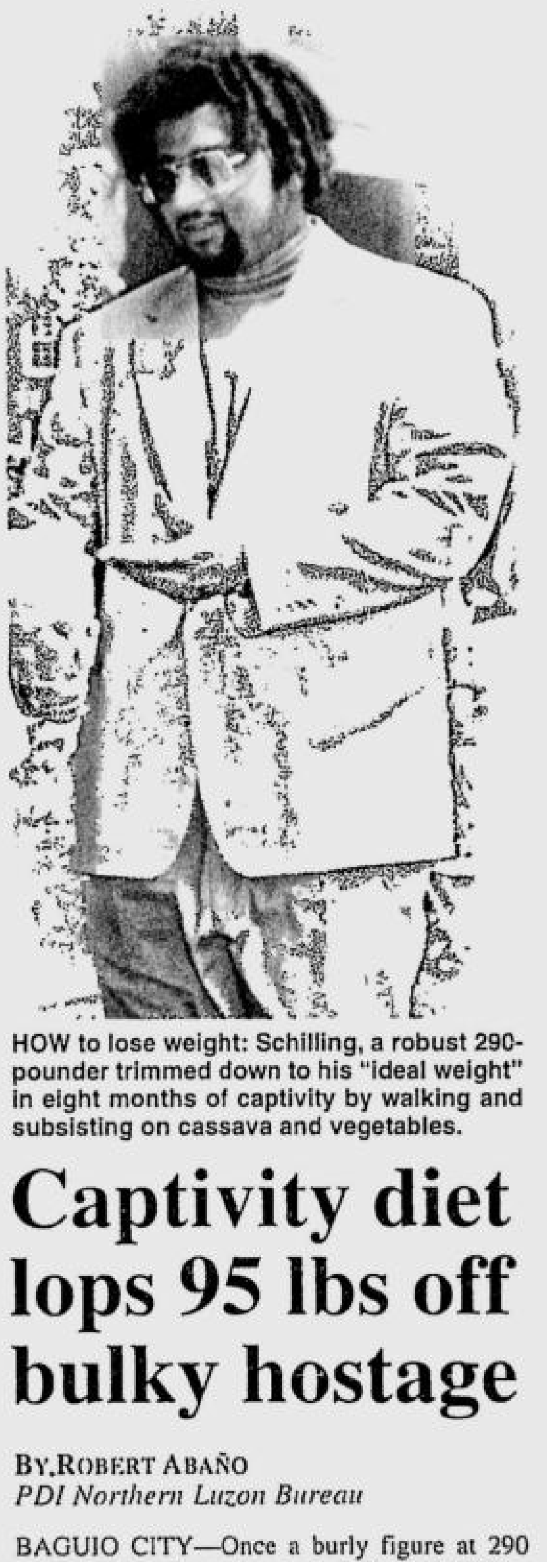
There was no sign of his Filipina wife, Ivy Osani, a cousin of Abu Sayyaf spokesperson Abu Sabaya. Schilling was abducted in August last year when he went to Sabaya's camp voluntarily with his Muslim wife, who was allowed to leave.

In Baguio, a very satisfied-looking President on Good Friday praised the military for the American's rescue, saying it was a triumph of "good over evil."

The beaming leader welcomed Schilling, accompanied by Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Diomedio Villanueva, and officials of the Southern Command, at the guesthouse of the Presidential Mansion on Good Friday.

"Every time a soul is saved, it is time to rejoice . . . This is a triumph of law and order, of good and evil," Ms Macapagal said in a prepared statement read at a press conference.

SCHILLING/ A18



HOW to lose weight: Schilling, a robust 290-pounder trimmed down to his "ideal weight" in eight months of captivity by walking and subsisting on cassava and vegetables.

Captivity diet lops 95 lbs off bulky hostage

BY ROBERT ABAÑO
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—Once a burly figure at 290 pounds, American hostage Jeffrey Schilling emerged 95 pounds lighter from his eight-month captivity in the hands of the Abu Sayyaf.

Schilling, whom his mother had referred to as "a gentle giant," had lost an average of 12 pounds a month on a diet of cassava and other vegetables found in the forests of Sulu.

"I feel tired and want to return to my family," the soft-spoken Californian said at a news conference with President Macapagal-Arroyo in Baguio City Friday.

The once stocky Schilling, 25, was almost unrecognizable from earlier photographs of him given to the media. He sported a heavy beard and thick hair from his months in the jungle.

Except for mentioning that his captors had chained him, Schilling gave the media scant details about his Jolo experience.

"He'll probably talk about that in time," a senior general said.

Schilling had dropped to 195 pounds when weighed at the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) hospital in Baguio, said PMA officials who supervised his medical examination at a

CAPTIVITY/ A21

POPE'S MESSAGE

East meets West in Easter Mass

POPE John Paul II will incorporate elements of the Byzantine liturgy in today's Easter Sunday Mass to emphasize that the Western and Eastern Christian churches are celebrating Christ's resurrection for the first time in 11 years.

The Vatican announced that medieval customs of the Roman Catholic Church, including the singing of the "stichi," an element of the Byzantine Easter liturgy, would be incorporated in the Mass.

The "stichi" are taken from the Psalms and are also made up of verses that sing of the resurrection of Christ. Their present version dates back to the sixth and seventh centuries.

The Mass will be held in Saint Peter's Square, where the Pontiff will deliver his traditional "Urbi et Orbi (for Rome and for the world)" blessing.

The last time Eastern and Western Christians celebrated Easter together was in 1990.

The difference in the date of the celebration came about when Pope Gregory XIII reformed the liturgical calendar in 1582 and adopted what is now known as the Gregorian calendar used almost everywhere in the world.

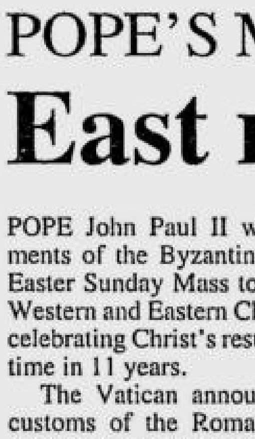
Eastern Christians, however, continued to calculate the date of Easter according to the old Julian calendar, as established by Julius Caesar in antiquity.

The Vatican announced that the Pope personally wanted to call the world's attention to the fact that the Eastern and Western churches are celebrating Easter Sunday together this year.

It said the decision to incorporate Byz-

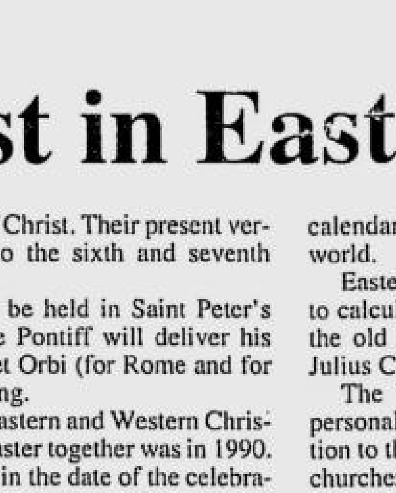
EAST/ A17

The Independents: It's not just Erap versus Gloria



NOLI DE CASTRO

ORLANDO MERCADO



MANUEL MORATO

BY JERRY ESPLANADA

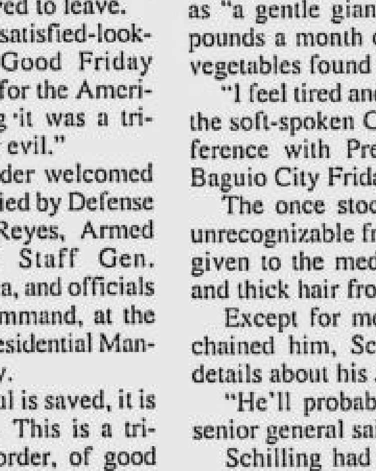
THEY have more or less the same game plan: to reach as many hearts and minds as possible without resorting to the usual song-and-dance routine, backed up by entertainment celebrities to attract crowds and sustain their attention.

Unlike some candidates in the administration People Power Coalition, they do not see the need to wear purple underwear to ensure victory in the May 14 election as advised by a popular feng shui master.

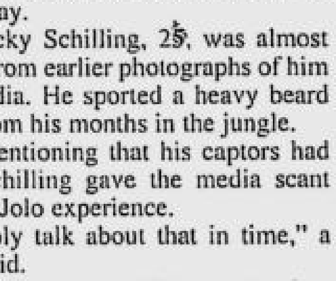
They have called on the electorate to vote for the men and women of their choice, not the anointed candidates of some religious cult leaders, sadly now a regular feature of Philippine elections.

They have also appealed to voters, young and old, not to vote for candidates solely on the basis of popularity or political affiliation.

THE INDEPENDENTS/ A6



CAMILO SABIO



PERFECTO YASAY JR.

NAKU... NAGTURUAN NA!

ERAP ARREST DELAY

Ombudsman blames Sandigan

By Michael Ubac

THE OMBUDSMAN has tossed back to the Sandiganbayan the blame for the delay in the issuance of an arrest warrant for deposed President Joseph Estrada.

Ombudsman Aniano Desierto said he was surprised by the recent statement made by Sandiganbayan presiding justice Francisco Garchitorena that the latter's court could not issue an arrest warrant for Estrada since the Ombudsman had failed to submit the necessary evidence against the deposed chief executive.

On the contrary, Desierto said, his office turned over the evidence consisting of 29 folders to the Sandiganbayan on the same day that it filed 11 complaints—eight of them implicating Estrada—with the anti-graft court.

Desierto said that what the Sandiganbayan justices need are additional sets of the documentary evidence, a fact his office only learned from the newspapers.

He said his agency had not been ordered by the Sandiganbayan or any other court to provide more sets of evidence in addition to the one set it submitted.

"As of the close of business hours last Wednesday, my office had not received any order of the kind," he said.

Pelagio Apostol, director of the Ombudsman Evaluation and Preliminary Investigation Bureau, confirmed that the Ombudsman had submitted the evidence to back the 11 complaints.

"The INQUIRER even noted that it took two men to carry the voluminous documentary evidence," he said in a statement.

Apostol, a veteran Ombudsman prosecutor at the Sandiganbayan, said he personally supervised the reproduction of a "complete set of evidence" consisting of affidavits of witnesses, bank and other documents, and transcripts of the Senate impeachment proceedings.

Garchitorena had said the additional sets of evidence, to be distributed to the court's five divisions, would help in determining if there is probable cause to arrest Estrada, his son Mayor Jinggoy Estrada, and former First Lady Dr. Loi Ejercito, among others, for alleged crimes committed during the previous administration.

"Based on the evidence we submitted, we believe there is sufficient proof to determine that the respondents committed the crimes imputed to them. Thus the court should not doubt the necessity of immediately issuing warrants of arrest," Garchitorena said.

Apostol said the Office of the Ombudsman submitted only one set of documents since, he said, this was established practice.

He said it was also "done in anticipation of the consolidation of the intimately related charges under one division."

Mark Jimenez suit vs PDI dismissed

By Michael Ubac

CITING insufficient evidence, the Makati City prosecutor has dismissed the P1-million libel suit filed by controversial businessman Mark Jiménez against the Philippine Daily Inquirer for calling him a "fugitive."

Saying there was apparent absence of malice on the part of the respondents, assistant city prosecutor Carlos M. Flores dismissed the libel complaint after "a careful examination of the evidence showed respondents may not be held liable for the offense as charged."

Flores said Jimenez failed to establish that the author of the article, Martin P. Marfil, was prompted by ill will or spite, "or that he . . . wrote the alleged offending article to injure the reputation of the complainant."

The order was contained in a two-page resolution submitted by Flores on March 16 to City Prosecutor Feliciano Aspi who approved it on March 28.

Aside from Marfil, other respondents in the complaint were INQUIRER publisher Isagani Yambot and editor in chief Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc.

Jimenez, who has offered to turn state witness against his former friend and crony, ousted President Joseph Estrada, is running for Congress in the sixth district of Manila.

He has been named in at least one of the plunder cases filed against Estrada by the Ombudsman. The penalty for plunder is death.

In the wake of Jimenez's candidacy, former Rep. Ernesto Herrera, who is himself running for senator under the administration People Power Coalition, urged that new legislation be passed to automatically prevent a person wanted either here or abroad from seeking elective office.

The next Congress should move to strengthen the Supreme Court ruling expanding the meaning of "fugitive from justice" to include any person who, at one time or another, evaded prosecution for criminal offenses, Herrera said.

Jimenez filed the libel complaint against the INQUIRER after a Jan. 14, 2001 article in the paper described him as a fugitive.

Marfil said he used the word "fugitive" since Jimenez is wanted by the United States justice department on the strength of several indictments for illegal campaign contributions, among other charges.

The US had filed an extradition request with the Philippine Department of Justice. The case has dragged on because of motions filed by Jimenez's lawyers before the Supreme Court and, recently, his stated willingness to testify against Estrada on their alleged involvement in multi-billion-peso business deals using government funds.

11 survive chopper crash in Ifugao

BAGUIO CITY—All 11 people aboard an air force helicopter that crashed in a fog-shrouded ravine in the Cordilleras were rescued yesterday, officials said.

The Bell 205 helicopter crashed Friday in the remote mountain town of Bokod.

The helicopter carried eight members of the Presidential Security Group and the Presidential Management Staff and three crewmembers.

They were on their way from Baguio city to Battad, Ifugao province, farther north, to prepare for a visit to the town by President Macapagal-Arroyo on Sunday.

All aboard suffered various cuts and bruises, including one who had a swollen wrist and another who was so badly bruised that he had to be carried on a stretcher.

They were brought to a military hospital in Baguio where Arroyo visited to check on their condition.

Rescuers said they had to make a temporary helipad about a five-hour hike away from the crash site because rescue helicopters could not approach the area due to the heavy forest cover and low clouds. *AP*

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Date : April 21, 2001 (Saturday) 10:00 a.m.
Venue : STAR PLAZA HOTEL A.B. Fernandez Avenue, Dagupan City
Contact Person : INS MIS @ Dagupan Office, 2/F Consuelo Bldg., M.H. Del Pilar St., Dagupan City
Tel. Nos. : (075) 522 7820, 515-4973; 515 5728; 515 2716 (0918) 910 2894
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CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY
Date : April 21, 2001 (Saturday) 2:00 p.m.
Venue : THE DYNASTY COURT HOTEL Tiano Haves St., Cagayan de Oro City
Contact Person : INS MIS @ 2/F R.M. Bldg. Abejuela St., Cagayan de Oro City
Tel. Nos. : (088) 856 2715 (08822) 729 026; 729-416
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Date : April 21, 2001 (Saturday) 2:00 p.m.
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CEBU CITY Date : April 21, 2001 (Sat.) 2 p.m. Venue : PARK PLACE HOTEL
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Keep cons out of polls –solon

SPURRED by reports that a congressman serving a life sentence for the rape of a child is seeking reelection, Senate Minority Leader Renato Cayetano (Lakas) is calling for the swift passage of a law banning convicted capital offenders from public office.

Cayetano, also chair of the Senate Justice and human rights committee, said in a news release that he was appealing to fellow legislators to promptly act on a bill that sought to prohibit a person convicted on a capital offense from seeking public office.

The measure also proposes to ban elected officials convicted of a crime punishable by life imprisonment or death from further discharging their duties.

Cayetano aired the call after the Commission on Elections confirmed that convicted rapist Rep. Romeo Jalosjos had filled his certificate of candidacy for his reelection in the first district of Zamboanga del Norte.

Jalosjos ran for office in 1998 even while he was serving a life sentence for statutory rape at the National Penitentiary.

"Allowing Jalosjos to run for office behind bars was a grievous mistake which must not be repeated," Cayetano said. "We put erring public officials behind bars, and yet we let them continue to hold office. Where is the logic there?"

Cayetano's call follows the filing by the Ombudsman of several cases of plunder, which is considered a capital offense, against ousted President Estrada.

People Power Coalition senatorial candidate Ernesto Herrera also threw his support behind the bill, which primarily seeks to correct the anomaly of an elected official serving his constituents from a prison cell and enjoying the benefits of his office.

Militants to ask SC to ban 'bogus' groups in May polls

By Jerome Aning

MILITANT groups and their lawyers will swoop down on the Supreme Court on Monday to ask the high tribunal to exclude big political parties and "bogus" party-list organizations from the May 14 polls.

The Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, Kilusang Mayo Uno, Anakbayan, the College Educators Guild of the Philippines, Migrante, League of Filipino Students and other organizations affiliated with party-list group Bayan Muna will picket the Supreme Court premises on P. Faura St., Ermita, Manila, beginning at 11 a.m.

At the same time, lawyers representing these groups will enter the Supreme Court building to file a petition formally asking that the court exclude these groups from the party-list race.

"The party-list system is supposed to be exclusive to disenfranchised sectors, but this is not the case anymore since major political parties and their satellite groups have joined the race," said Rodolfo Sambajon, national chair of the fisherfolk group Pamalakaya, which is affiliated with Bayan Muna.

The petition seeks the exclusion from the party-list race of ousted President Joseph Estrada's Partido ng Masang Pilipino and other groups affiliated with him, such as Ahonbayan, Mamamayan Ayaw sa Droga, Kabalikat sa Kabuhayan Koalisyon, Kabataan ng Masang Pilipino, Jeep ni Erap, Bagong Bayani, Businessmen and Entrepreneurs Association, Philippine Local Autonomy Movement, and the Sports and Health Development Foundation.

Large parties that are also running in the party-list race are the administration's Lakas-NUCD and Estrada's political allies such as the Nationalist People's Coalition, the People's Reform Party and the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino.

Sambajon said he believes Estrada is plotting "to dominate Congress through the party-list system in order to gain political leverage and evade charges of plunder and possible arrest."

He said it was Estrada's clique that "bastardized the party-list system by saturating it with fly-by-night groups."

The Ang Bagong Bayani—OFW Labor Party (OFW Party-List) last Wednesday filed before the Supreme Court a petition for certiorari to annul the Comelec Omnibus Resolution which accredited political parties and organizations that did not conform to the law.

In a 24-page petition filed by lawyer Ceferino Padua, the OFW Party List said the inclusion of political parties and non-marginalized groups defeats the Constitutional provision on party-list elections which specifies representation in the Lower House of marginalized and under-represented sectors of society.

"Political parties have well-defined constituencies. How then can they be considered marginalized and under-represented?" Padua, a delegate to the 1971 Constitutional Convention, asked in the petition.

He said the Constitution clearly defines the composition of party-list representatives, namely, the labor, peasant, urban poor, indigenous cultural communities, women, youth and other such sectors.

"The Legislature added to the list the overseas Filipino workers (OFW), war veterans and senior citizens sectors. How then can the Comelec accredit political parties?" Padua asked.

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Corinthians 3:1-4

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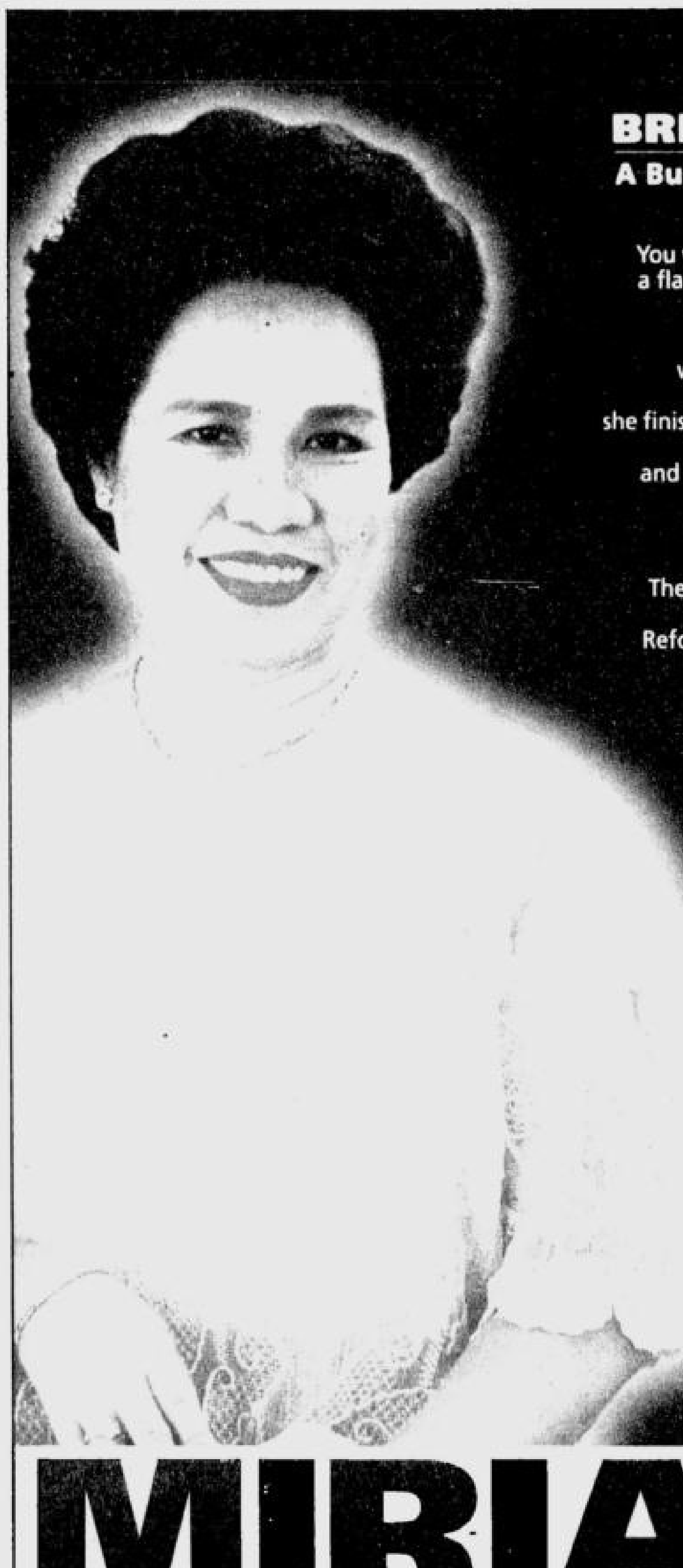

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RP gets ₱1-B soft loan from Saudi Arabia

THE SAUDI Arabian government has extended a P1-billion soft loan to support rehabilitation efforts in the war-ravaged provinces of the South, a statement said yesterday.

The money will primarily go to setting up livelihood programs and rebuilding areas affected by a decades-old rebellion by the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front, it said.

Saudi ambassador Saleh Mohammad Al-Ghamdi said the financial assistance was his government's response to a call by President Macapagal-Arroyo for members of the 56-nation Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) to help end the MILF's insurgency.

The government and the MILF have agreed to resume peace talks within three months, with the venue rotating between Manila, Malaysia and Indonesia.

The 12,500-member MILF has been waging a 23-year rebellion for the establishment of an independent Islamic state in the south.

It pulled out of the talks last year after Ms Macapagal's predecessor Joseph Estrada launched a massive offensive that dislodged them from their headquarters.

That triggered a wave of MILF attacks, including bombings and raids on government installations and villages. *AFP*

Fire razes Pinoy squatter settlements in Sandakan, Sabah

KUALA LUMPUR—Fire raged for more than four hours through squatters villages in a Malaysian Borneo town, razing 300 houses and leaving more than 1,000 people homeless, news reports said Saturday.

The colony was home to mostly Indonesian and Filipino immigrants, the New Straits Times newspaper reported. Each year, thousands of poor Indonesians and Filipinos migrate—many illegally—to neighboring and richer Malaysia seeking work on plantations or in other menial jobs.

No one was injured in the fire, which spread quickly through two settlements in Sandakan, in Sabah state , said Fire Department officer Roslee Tuzan.

The cause was being investigated, she was cited as saying by the national news agency, Bernama.

More than two dozen firefighters who fought the blaze were hampered because the villages had no water supply, forcing them to rely solely on water the two fire engines deployed were carrying, the paper said. *AP*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, April 15, 2001
Easter Sunday

1st Reading: Acts 10:34, 37-43

Peter then spoke to the people, "Truly, I realize that God does not show partiality. No doubt you have heard of the event that occurred throughout the whole country of the Jews, beginning from Galilee, after the baptism John preached. You know how God anointed Jesus the Nazarean with Holy Spirit and power. He went about doing good and healing all who were under the devil's power, because God was with him; we are witnesses of all that he did throughout the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem itself. Yet they put him to death by hanging him on a wooden cross.

But God raised him to life on the third day and let him manifest himself, not to all the people, but to the witnesses that were chosen beforehand by God—to us who ate and drank with him after his resurrection from death. And he commanded us to preach to the people and to bear witness that he is the one appointed by God to judge the living and the dead. All the prophets say of him, that everyone who believes in him has forgiveness of sins through his Name."

2nd Reading: Col 3:1-4

If you are risen with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things that are above, not on earthly things. For you have died and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, reveals himself, you also will be revealed with him in Glory.

Gospel: Jn 20:1-9

On the first day after the sabbath, Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning, while it was still dark and she saw that the stone blocking the tomb had been moved away. She ran to Peter and the other disciple whom Jesus loved. And she said to them, "They have taken the *Lord* out of the tomb and we don't know where they have laid him."

Peter then set out with the other disciple to go to the tomb. They ran together but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down and saw the linen cloths lying flat, but he did not enter.

Then Simon Peter came following him and entered the tomb; he, too, saw the linen cloths lying flat. The napkin, which had been around his head was not lying flat like the other linen cloths but lay rolled up in its place. Then the other disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in; he saw and believed. Scripture clearly said that he must rise from the dead, but they had not yet understood that.

Commentary

It was through a woman's tale in the beginning that alienation crept into humanity and creation. Now in the new humanity and creation, it is also through an alleged woman's "tale" that communion and solidarity must become the new principle of living and relating. The disturbing news of the empty tomb was discovered for the first time by a woman disciple, Mary Magdalene, only to be verified later by men disciples, Peter and the beloved one. Nobody witnessed the actual event of Jesus' being raised from the dead. But both women and men did see the empty tomb and later on experienced the Risen Jesus to be alive, transforming them to be witnesses of this mystery in their new way of living and relating with the entire reality. Would that all—both men and women—bind themselves together in building a better humanity and creation in this third millennium of the Common Era.

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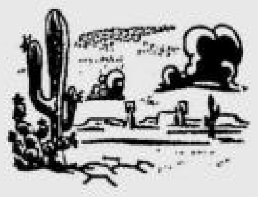

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12 crucified on Good Friday

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Thousands of people converged on this city in Pampanga to witness 12 people being crucified in an annual re-enactment of Jesus Christ's suffering and death on Good Friday.

It is one of the most extreme acts of faith in the Philippines, Asia's only predominantly Christian nation where Good Friday is marked with solemnity and piety.

Elsewhere in the archipelago, Filipinos marked the occasion Friday with prayers and church pilgrimages, staying away from any noisy or festive behavior.

The entire country virtually shuts on Good Friday with local radio and television stations going off the air and most newspapers taking a holiday as well.

In San Fernando's Cutud district, faithful Filipinos mingled with hundreds of foreign and local tourists to see the bloody spectacle that climaxed on a dusty hill outside town at the height of the afternoon.

Even before the actual ceremonies began, there was plenty of bloodshed as hundreds of half-naked, hooded worshippers marched through the town, whipping their backs into a gory mass in penance for their sins.

The men used broken glass to slit their backs and then opened the wounds even further by flaying their backs with crude lashes made of rope tipped with sharp bamboo.

Their whips sent splashes of blood all over the bystanders, much to the discomfort of those nearby.

In another part of the town, costumed residents re-enacted Christ's sentencing before Pontius Pilate with mounted men wearing cardboard helmets playing centurions.

Later the Christ figure carried a cross under the burning sun all the way to the hill. Three crosses were then set up for the 11 men and one woman to take turns to be crucified.

The "Kristos" were laid upon the crosses and long, stainless steel nails driven through the palms, and sometimes even through their feet.

Each of the crosses was then hoisted up so the devotee could hang upon them for a few minutes.

Those crucified merely grimaced as the nails were hammered in. When they were taken down, they just walked away, wiping their wounds with rubbing alcohol.

That the same nails were used from one devotee to another, with no more sterilization than a wiping with rubbing alcohol, did not seem to bother them.

Newcomers to the spectacle gasped in shock while veterans watched with interest.

The crucifixions and flagellation are not sanctioned by the Catholic Church but the devotees continue to submit to the ordeal, many of them undergoing multiple crucifixions over a number of years.

Critics say that the event has become commercialized with some even accusing locals of paying people to undergo the crucifixions to attract tourists.

Village officials have denied this even as scores of vendors hawked drinks and snacks to the crowd sweltering under the summer sun.

Those undergoing the crucifixions and the self-flagellation say they are doing it in fulfillment of a vow to God, often in return for the grant of a request.

Medardo Pabustan, 34, a storeowner, said he had undergone crucifixion for the last 11 years because his disabled younger brother, Carlos Rico, could not walk.

After two years of crucifixions, his brother regained the use of his legs and a grateful Pabustan has remained true to his promise, saying he will return next year.

Gardo Canlas, 47, said he had been whipping himself for the past 15 years because his child could not find relief from a chronic illness.

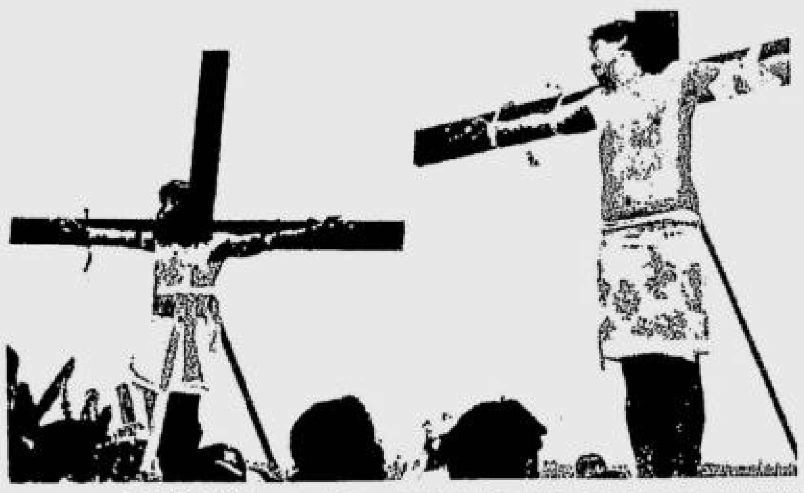
He said he would continue to perform the ritual "as long as I can stand it."

"After I do this, I feel that my sins are washed away," he said.

Dante Ramos, 35, has been flagellating himself for eight years. Unlike many others, he is not asking God for a favor but is only demonstrating his faith.

"Every time I do this, I get closer to God," Ramos said, hoping his sins for the whole year are absolved.

AFP



HERESITO Sanggalang (above) looks toward his fellow penitent Bob Velez as they stay nailed on the cross in Barangay Cutud, City of San Fernando, on Good Friday. Below, Sanggalang up close before his cross was raised by assistants. AP

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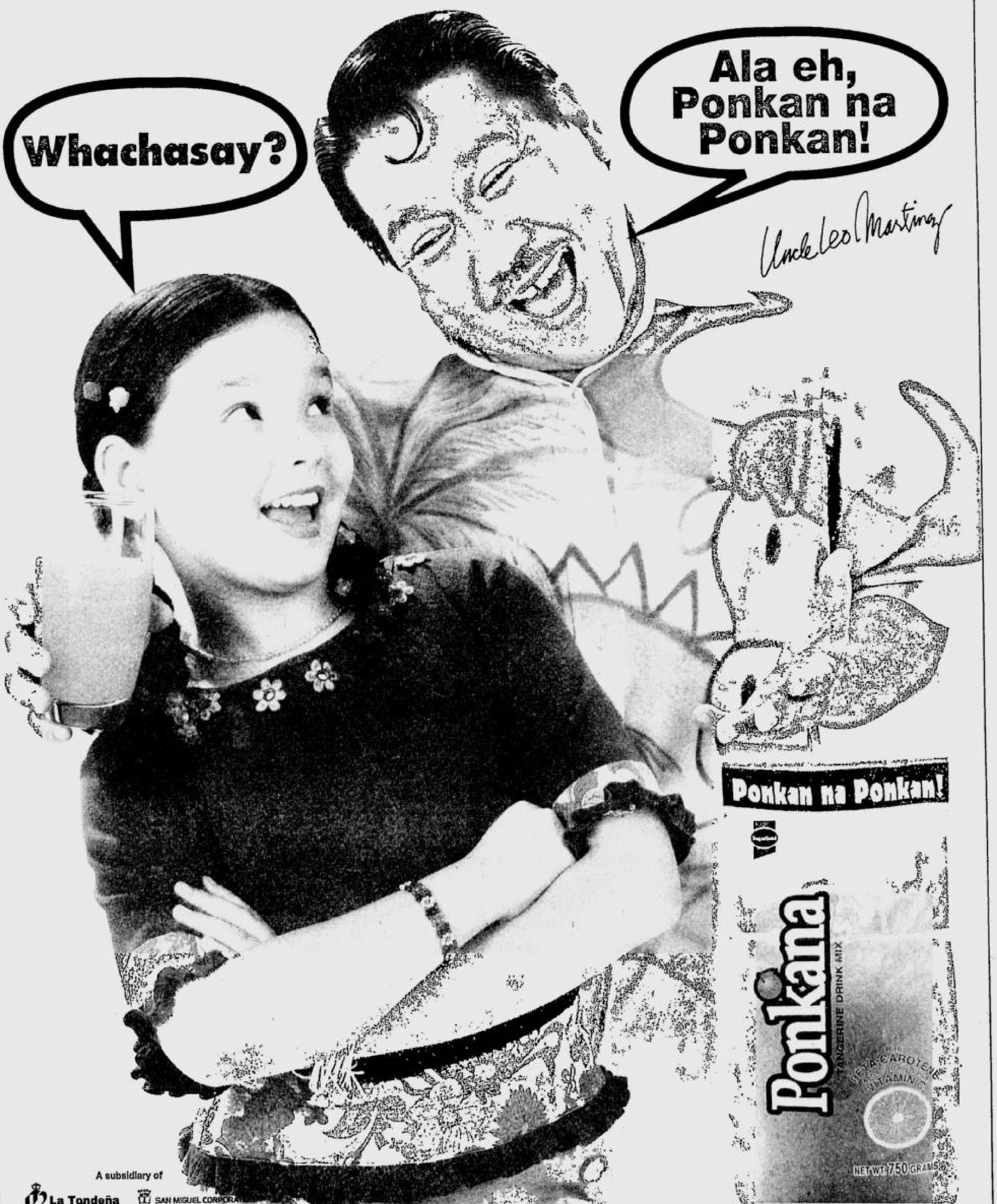

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The Independents: It's not just Erap versus Gloria

(From page A1)

Independent candidates Perfecto Yasay Jr., Manuel Morato, Camilo Sabio, Homobono Adaza, Noli de Castro and Orlando Mercado also stressed the need to correct the impression that "it's a fight between pro-Erap and anti-Erap forces."

Why? "Because it is not and it shouldn't be. The political parties need to correct that," pointed out Yasay, a former chair of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

He appealed to political parties to "start making sure that the people know the real issues."

In December, Yasay testified at the Senate impeachment trial of disgraced President Joseph Estrada that the former leader tried to pressure him into clearing businessman and presidential friend Dante Tan in the BW Resources stock scandal.

The lawyer decided to run as an independent candidate after he was not named to the PPC slate. Yasay's supporters call him "Kidlat ng Bayan" after Estrada "told a TV program *sana tamaan ako ng kidlat* (may you be struck by lightning)."

Yasay, a lawyer who passed both the Philippine and New York State bars, took to task political parties for "reducing the issues in terms of proclaiming to the world that you're either pro-Erap or anti-Erap."

"The former President is not the issue. The issue is what the candidate stands for, why voters would vote for that candidate," he said.

Myopic

Mercado observed the "effort by some groups, by the nature of recent events, to make (the May 14 polls) an Erap-versus-Gloria (Macapagal Arroyo) election."

The former broadcast journalist dismissed the obsession with the campaign issue as a "myopic point of view." According to the former defense secretary and two-term senator, "this Gloria-Erap issue has been settled already by the Supreme Court with a vote of 13-0."

Mercado noted that "Erap is no longer president. The Erap issue is like a dead horse which they are trying to resurrect. (In terms of) the pro-poor programs that we've pursued, arguably, I'm still willing to go into a debate. But if it's going to be a debate centered on Erap and that's exactly what some people want to do, they either want to put the tag or pro or anti-Erap on you and simplify the debate. *Teka muna.*

"We'll be (in the Senate) for six years. Let's talk about the issues. What they're doing is not helping making our voters mature, not at all. It's time to move on," said Mercado who is running as an independent although the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino-Puwersa ng Masa has adopted him.

The former defense secretary, along with Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Angelo Reyes and the rest of the military's top officials, withdrew their support for Estrada, triggering a series of resignations from the Estrada Cabinet.

Thus, he was retained by Ms Macapagal as defense secretary. But he later quit the Cabinet after Malacañang named Lisandro Abadia as national security adviser. He had earlier investigated Abadia for alleged anomalies in the military's pension fund under the Ramos administration.

Dividing people

In his campaign sorties, Mercado has been "trying to talk about the thrust of my legislative program but it's like trying to raise your voice in the din of a cacophony of voices that are actually just talking about the impeachment hearings, Edsa II or the fight between the rich and the poor. It's so difficult to raise the level of discourse."

"The 13-0 (call of the Macapagal administration to vote for PPC bets) aggravated that," he noted.

Yasay called the 13-0 call "one of the worst steps backwards" ever made by a party in power. "They are dividing the people," he said.

According to Mercado, the administration is "trying to make it appear that this is a choice between this *barkada* and that *barkada*."

Mercado asked: "Is that the way people vote for their senators? I don't think so. I think the Filipino electorate is more intelligent. I think they will choose from those in the PPC, the Puwersa ng Masa and the independents. They will choose."

Adaza, a former assemblyman and staunch anti-Marcos activist who filed in 1985 an impeachment resolution against the dictator, said the same thing. He called the Macapagal administration's call for a 13-0 vote in favor of the PPC an "insult to the intelligence of our voters."

The Camiguin native believes "Mindanaoans like me won't just vote for any bastard simply because he is affiliated with the PPC or the Puwersa for that matter."

Adaza, also a former immigration commissioner, berated "senatorial bets who sing and dance just to get votes."

"They're an embarrassment. *Mag*-DI (dance instructor) *na lang sila* in ballrooms," he said.

Mercado, formerly known as "Mr. Pepsodent" for his popular toothpaste commercial in the 1980s, has a good singing voice. "But I'd rather deliver a speech," he said.

Clown

Singing and dancing before a crowd is also a no-no for Yasay. "I believe *di katungkulan yan ng isang kandidato*. You cannot act as a clown because you are not running for being a clown.

"An independent candidate should really carry on that uniqueness in terms of making a difference in this campaign. That's what being independent is as far as I am concerned."

He recalled a speaking engagement in Cuenca, Batangas, where he "really prepared and rehashed my Tagalog to make sure that I'd be able to speak pure Tagalog. They know that I'm Bisaya. There, I was like a Balagtas. It paid off."

"But *sabi nila, sayang pumunta kami rito para makinig sa inyo ng* English. That was a good learning experience for me. This campaign has been enriching for me and for the electorate. We should never underestimate our people," Yasay told the INQUIRER.

Sabio, a 1971 Constitutional Commission delegate, lets voters "share with me their concerns, size me up for my sincerity and honesty and get to know me instead of just passing by and shaking hands where everything is superficial."

Morato, former chair of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office and the Movie Television Review and Classification Board, said he had "no intention of using my friends in show business in my campaign sorties."

"I will never do that. I'm not into gimmicks. They're definitely not my cup of tea," he declared.

Like Adaza, Morato has "no high regard for candidates who try to win votes by singing and dancing. That's cheap. Voters should see through candidates' tricks and disguises. Voters should ask their candidates what they stand for."

"The May election is not a popularity contest," he stressed.

Morato believes the May electoral exercise "is our chance to reaffirm our commitment to new politics, democracy, to Edsa I and II."

"It is also our chance to remove from public office those who do not deserve our trust," said Morato, a losing presidential candidate in the 1998 polls. When interviewed, he did not name names but Morato referred to senators whom he called the "infamous ones during the Erap impeachment trial" of Estrada.

Social concerns

"I do not wish to quarrel with anyone. I'm concentrating on my social concerns," said the independent candidate who prefers to be called a "social worker."

De Castro, the Pola, Oriental Mindoro "boy who made good," has been trying to distance himself from the pro-Erap Puwersa ng Masa which had adopted him. "I prefer to be independent and that calls for being not identified with any party," he said.

"But that does not prevent local candidates from various parties from helping my campaign. I am not a liability, asset *pa nga nila ako*," said De Castro, whose campaign backers include his former employer, ABS-CBN.

The popular Channel 2 broadcaster was favored by 59 percent of its 1,500 respondents in a poll conducted in mid-March by the Social Weather Stations.

Yasay has yet to breach the so-called Magic 13 (out of 24 Senate seats up for grabs). But he scored an encouraging 70-percent "awareness" rating among respondents in a recent poll survey. He was the first senatorial bet to be endorsed by youth organizations like the National Union of Students of the Philippines, Anakbayan, College Editors Guild of the Philippines, and Bayan Muna Youth.

Yasay, a member of the Cosmopolitan church, said "it looked like (his Senate bid) was workable. At this point, I'm doing what is humanly possible and letting God do the rest."

He has been telling voters "when you run a race for the Lord, you have to discard all the excess baggage that slow you down. To be a member of a political party would have meant carrying excess baggage that would slow me down."

Magnetic appeal

Contrary to some reports, Mercado has not lost his magnetic appeal.

The SWS March 5-18 survey put him in the seventh and eighth places, an improvement over a similar survey in February where he placed eleventh and twelfth.

"All indications show that I can make it. People have seen me make hard decisions and take difficult stands. I may not be the most exciting political leader now but I was never a waffler," he said.

In the end, Mercado said he "would like to think that the people would still reserve a slot for an independent candidate like me."

"For now, Noli is topping (the surveys). But we should talk about competence, honesty and integrity," Sabio said. "This election should not be a popularity contest."

Independent bets should also be taken seriously, Adaza said, emphasizing that the "qualifications and track records of some independent bets can compare with those in the so-called coalitions."

"Like my qualifications and track record, they can stand scrutiny," Adaza added.

Early this month, Adaza accused 15 prominent senatorial candidates of blatantly disregarding the law on posting campaign materials in areas not designated under the Fair Elections Act.

Among the alleged violators were Senators Miriam Defensor-Santiago and Juan Ponce Enrile, former first lady Luisa "Loi" Ejercito, former PNP chief Panfilo Lacson, former Press Secretary Ricardo Puno, and fellow independent bet De Castro. The poll body is looking into Adaza's complaint.

In addition to Mercado, Yasay, Morato, Adaza, Sabio and De Castro, the Comelec had also approved the senatorial bids of two other independent candidates—former actor Rod Navarro and Moner Bajunaid, a university professor from Gen. Santos City.

Disapproved

In a March 1 resolution, the poll body disapproved those of 30 other candidates "because they cannot wage a nationwide campaign." They included, among others, businessmen Fernando Po Jr. and Ernesto Tavaco, real estate agent Castor Macariola, electrician Emilio Quibedo Jr., singer-composer Daniel Magtira, and agriculturist Clemente de Guzman.

According to Mercado, independent candidates "have to overcome the perception that you're not a serious contender and if you're not one, unfortunately it aggravates the circumstance because you cannot get support, including financial support."

"If you're not a household name or your level of awareness as a political actor is zero, then maybe you'll be needing money introducing yourself. But if you've been in the radar screen of political activity of the country for some time, so long as you're not utterly infamous and if your record has some levels of credibility, I think you have a fair chance of making it," he said.

All independent senatorial bets interviewed for this story admitted "running with limited funds."

Mercado called his game plan a "guerrilla operation." Winning for him is important "but that's been my philosophy in campaigning ever since. *Magbebenta ka ba ng bahay para lang manalo ka? Kung ayaw ng tao sa 'yo wala kang magagawa* (Will you sell a house just to win? If the people don't like you, there's nothing you can do about it)," he said.

"(I) rely on (my) own old friends, classmates and those who have believed in me since 1984 when I started out in my campaign," he added.

For Yasay, it is a "cottage industry." During this reporter's visit to his West Avenue, Quezon City home, his security guard was busy making a streamer. Yasay's housemaids were silk-screening "Yasay for Senator" T-shirts.

Least known

"You're supposed to have no resources unless you're rich. And since you do not have the machinery, name recall is different," lamented Sabio who also acknowledged he was "one of the least known candidates."

Sabio, president of the Philippine Constitution Association and co-chair of the National Coalition for the Protection of Workers' Rights, served the government for more than 13 years.

The lawyer was Morato's running mate in the 1998 presidential election under the Partido ng Bansang Marangal. His supporters include multisectoral groups like Bayan, Federation of Free Workers and the left-leaning Kilusang Mayo Uno, in addition to Catholic church-affiliated organizations.

The Senate, Sabio said, is "missing people like the late Jose P. Laurel, Claro M. Recto, Lorenzo Tañada and Jose W. Diokno. I'd like to follow in their tradition. They're also party members but of a different breed."

Senatorial bets belonging to PPC and Puwersa are "leading (in poll surveys) but I think as we near election day, it will be different," Sabio said.

Sabio added that "times have changed. The people have awakened. There is greater political consciousness especially after Edsa II. Voters now are more active, more intelligent."

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Easter marks new beginning for RP–Gloria

TODAY's celebration of Easter Sunday coincides with not only the Philippines' "new beginning" but also the Filipino people's "recommitment to the values of our forefathers" and to the belief in their competitiveness in the global village, President Macapagal-Arroyo said yesterday.

The President expressed the hope that Easter Sunday would provide inspiration to all Filipinos, and that the nation would always be "one with the Risen Christ."

She also said Christ's resurrection had been serving to confirm "our belief that there is life after death."

Following is the full text of the President's Easter message:

"*Ang muling pagkabuhay ni Hesu Kristo ang tunay na esensiya ng Kristiyanismo. Tayong lahat ay nananabik sa araw na ito, at punung-puno ng pag-asa ang ating puso tuwing sumasapit ang* Easter Sunday (The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the true essence of Christianity. We have all eagerly waited for this moment, and our hearts are full of hope as we anticipate the observance of Easter Sunday).

"As Jesus said, He is the resurrection and the life, and he who believes in Him will have life, though he were dead. And whosoever lives and believes in Him shall never die.

"Easter Sunday completes the cycle, and the Risen Christ is an inexhaustible source of hope, fulfillment and blessings.

"It also symbolizes a new beginning.

"This year, the celebration of Easter Sunday coincides with our new beginning, our recommitment to the values of our forefathers and to the firm belief that Filipinos can be competitive as we approach the global village.

"May Easter Sunday inspire us all. It is, after all, the triumph after the travails, the confirmation of the central factor of our belief that there is life after death.

"May our Easter Sunday blessings be truly meaningful for the Filipino, and may our nation be one with the Risen Christ, now and forever."

Easter links time with eternity

By Fr. Roy Cimagala

THE GLORY of Easter is simply indescribable. If we have to get some clues about it, we should allow ourselves to be intoxicated by some words of that forceful Easter Proclamation or the Exsultet. What does it say?

"Rejoice . . . This is the night when Jesus Christ broke the chains of death and rose triumphant from the grave . . . The power of this holy night dispels all evil, washes guilt away, restores lost innocence, brings mourners joy; it casts out hatred, brings us peace, and humbles earthly pride . . ."

The glory of Easter is about victory of life over death, light over darkness, mercy over sin. It screams to the world that it is worthwhile to persevere in the good even if evil has many advantages.

It celebrates the restoration of a lost dignity. We are not anymore enemies of God, or mere creatures of His. We are his friends and children, sharers of his divine life and nature, taken up in God's eternal burst of love!

People many times complain about their problems and difficulties. They often exaggerate these, precisely because they forget this Easter triumph. They have forgotten what St. Paul so eloquently affirmed: "As the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so also through Christ does our comfort abound" (2 Cor 1,5).

This is one of the beautiful consequences of Easter. Human sufferings, no matter how great, are always accompanied with even more abundant comfort and consolation, as long as things are done through Christ.

"Come to me, all you that labor and are burdened, and I will refresh you," (Mt 11,28) says the Lord.

Explaining further how these divine words, to be received in faith, could actually happen in the real life of the here and now, Pope John Paul II says:

"It is important that rest be not just to walk around aimlessly. It is important that rest be filled with an encounter—the encounter with Christ. It means opening the interior sight of the soul to his presence in the world, opening the interior hearing to the Word of his truth."

Yes, indeed, we have to learn to go to him even and precisely when we are tired and afflicted with all sorts of pains and sorrows. He will refresh us, as he promised.

This can be done usually in prayer, that basic, indispensable activity that reaffirms man not only as a creature, nor simply a rational being, but as a child of God. But there is yet another more impressive and most effective way. This is through the sacraments or the active participation of the Church's liturgy.

This is another consequence of Easter's victory. Christ's resurrection has linked time with eternity, lent a divine power to human things, detaching them from the limits of time and space. It makes Christ present and active in his work of redemption for all time in things accessible also to men.

This is the concept of the liturgy and the sacraments. It is the continuing presence and action of Christ through all the ages, this time making use of human cooperation and things of nature to effect it. The sacraments are an effective sign of God's grace, a real meeting place between God and man where there is supposed to be an exchange of love.

One Easter lesson therefore that should be learned well by all is the importance of the sacraments and the liturgy in our life. Yes, they have the power to take us up to heaven while still here on earth, to already participate in the eternal life while still subject to time and the law of death.

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

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Digest by R.B. Vera

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OPINION

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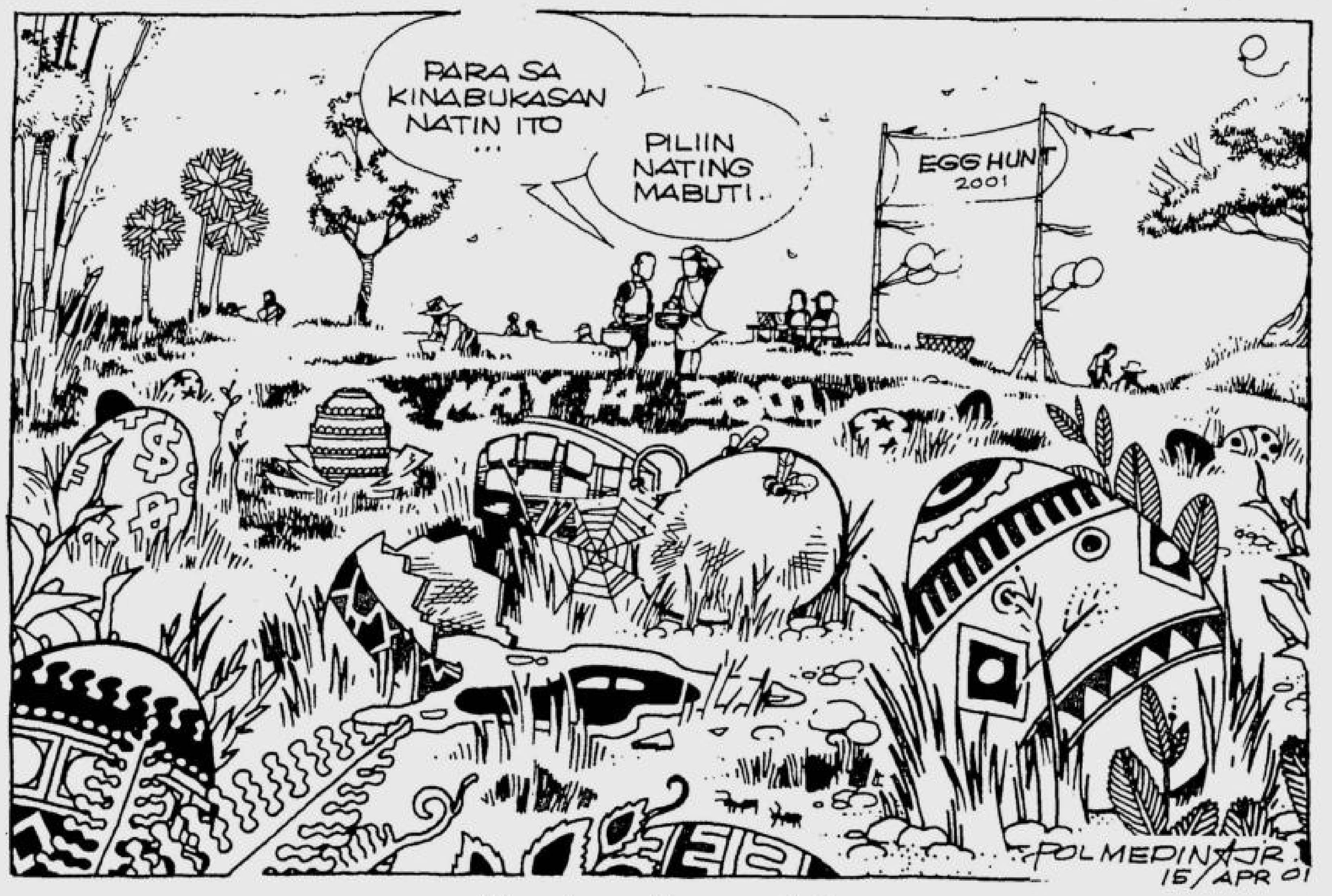
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EDITORIALS

Solidarity

NO other feast reflects the Filipino character better than Lent. In its stark and somber ambience, in its pathos and celebratory air, in its extremes of season and emotions, Lent presents powerfully the Filipino case: a people that seem to relish in the martyrdom of history, but nevertheless prevail against the vicissitudes of fate.

For Filipino purposes, Cuaresma, the Spanish word that has been adopted by Philippine vocabulary, is a better word than Lent. The English word is etymologically based on an Old English word, which means "lengthen," referring to the lengthened daylight hours during spring. The word therefore does not faithfully reflect the concrete Filipino's experience of the season: of the harshness of summer, of the scorching intensity with which it wilts the flesh in order to set the soul on fire.

In contrast, cuaresma means a coming together in the spirit of contrition and repentance. It means solidarity in sacrifice and self-giving. Considering the richness of its meaning, cuaresma perfectly encapsulates the Filipino experience.

Which explains perhaps its longevity. Historians, anthropologists and literature experts are astounded at the resilience of Lenten devotions, starting with Ash Wednesday in which churches teem with the faithful who ask overworked priests that their foreheads be marked by ash in remembrance of their ashen beginnings and in prefigurement of their ashen end.

Although the practice is standard in the Catholic world, Ash Wednesday assumes a stark, spectral quality in the Philippines, whose people seem to have as much passion for death as they have for birth. Death and birth constitute in fact the universal motif of the cuaresma; they constitute the essential motif of the Filipino experience.

Palm Sunday not only replays Christ's triumphant entry to Jerusalem, it also represents Filipinos' welcome of Catholicism, a reception that has bittersweet results. To nationalists, Catholicism abetted the people's superstition. However, it is also true that Catholicism united the disparate tribes in the scattered islands of the archipelago, endowing them with a consciousness that, according to Nick Joaquin, removed them from the torpor of tribal determinism. In short, Catholicism gave them freedom. The revolution was just a reaffirmation that the tribal had become Catholic, and hence, Filipino.

The Filipino poor had long appreciated the rich meaning of Maundy Thursday long before the Church proclaimed its preferential option for the poor. On that day, Filipinos give alms ("Maundy" is a corruption of the word money) and remember Christ's mandate (the other meaning of maundy) to his followers to emulate his example of demeaning himself and washing the feet of the poor apostles.

Victory

GOOD Friday represents perhaps what the Filipino Catholic fictionist Carlos Aureus calls the "blatant hopefulness" of the Christian message. The day that marks the death of Christ on the cross is called good because his sordid death fulfilled the plan of salvation. Death, the worst wage of evil, was ennobled and elevated by the Son of God dying as a criminal. God's humiliation being complete, the Church calls the day "good,".an understatement of the enterprise of redemption, which is a reverse hyperbole if there was one.

In contrast, Black Saturday is black; there's no effort at easing the oppressiveness of grief. Except that in the Philippine context, the rituals take on a celebratory air, with some of the most colorful rituals in Christendom. In fact, old people who otherwise take on the role of grumpy centurions against mischievous children making a racket out of Holy Week generally let their guard down come Saturday. They philosophize that Saturday may be a day of mourning but it is also a day of anticipation, in fact a joyous anticipation of Christ's resurrection. Black Saturday functions much like Christmas Eve; it presages the triumph of Easter.

Then there's Easter. Those who complain that Filipinos are sadists for their alleged fixation on Christ's passion and death miss the point. Filipinos are inherently optimistic, with an optimism that is ultimately reasonable and moored on the here and now. Filipinos in fact undergo suffering with an uncanny bright outlook because of their belief in the triumph of joy over sadness, justice over injustice, life over death. That belief was in full display last January when Filipinos risked everything to topple a corrupt government. Their victory makes today's Easter even more meaningful.

Easter thoughts

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

MY family joins in the celebration of Easter Sunday, the greatest holiday of the Christian world commemorating the resurrection of the Lord. It is a day for meditation on the triumph of eternal life over death and of the rewards awaiting the transported soul from its earthly bonds.

There was a time, as I recall from my youth, when this day was observed only with recited prayers and mass communion as befitted the solemn event. Anything beyond quiet elation was sinful. That feeling was instilled in our elders from way back to the Spanish regime, when religion signified salvation only through suffering.

Bred in the rigid discipline of the Catholic Church, the people reverently accepted everything the clergy told them as inviolate articles of faith. So regimented was the laity then, particularly the women, who devoutly obeyed what the friars dictated, sometimes including their mundane demands. The parish priest was the vortex of social power and spiritual influence if not also discreet romances.

This is not mere conjecture but was an open secret in many communities during those times. Rizal narrated in his novels the secret sin of Padre Damaso and the lechery of Padre Salvi for the chaste Maria Clara. These were probably extreme examples but not improbable. In any event, they were used effectively to highlight the hero's protests against the Spanish rulers and the cancer gnawing at the Church itself.

To be sure, it was not only during that era that evil in the Holy Church existed. The carnal sins of some of the Popes are documented and undeniable. Even during this more enlightened age, the Vatican itself has admitted the excesses and omissions of the sacrosanct clergy. Cardinals have been exposed as ravishing nuns and boys even as other clerics openly or clandestinely reject their vow of celibacy.

Such misdeeds are, of course, not confined to the Catholic Church. Other denominations have their share of scoundrels too. Embezzlement of church funds, adultery, seduction and pederasty have stained the names of Catholic priests and Protestant ministers. More and more hypocrites in religious habit are besmearing their calling as representatives of God.

No less execrable are the antics of professed faith healers who use the name of the Almighty to foist their deceptions upon the gullible. These charlatans can miraculously cure every affliction, but the greater miracle is the number of people they are able to hoodwink. The supposed treatments could be actually amusing were it not for the cynicism of the stage-managed trickery.

The desperately ill, who will cling at straws to save their lives, line up for the holy touch of the preacher who will cure them. Some "patients" infiltrate the queue to swoon on cue. Regaining consciousness, they will then announce their instant recovery, dramatizing it by rising from their wheelchairs or throwing away their crutches. Some over-actors appear so overcome with emotion that they will faint even before the cue.

It's sad that religion continues to be exploited even now when people are supposed to be more sensible. It was bad enough when the parishioners used to chant those Latin prayers nobody understood, to ensure their place in heaven. Now, though we are better educated, there are still many of us—intelligent in other respects—who allow themselves to be manipulated by the high priests of their cult.

The influence of religion has spread even to governmental matters, enabling some denominations to control purely secular policies. One lay pastor, for example, evaded investigation of his financial operations because of his closeness to the past administration. The 1998 elections saw several religious groups actively campaigning for their candidates like accredited political parties.

The El Shaddai flock, with the prominent participation of a Catholic bishop, supported Joseph Estrada despite his admitted immoralities. So did the Iglesia ni Cristo, which ignored the candidate's boozing, gambling and womanizing against its own high moral standards. Other religious groups came out with their own endorsements of candidates who had made the highest bid for their support.

It is argued that the members of religious groups do not, as such, lose their rights as citizens to participate in the solution of civic problems. Admitted. But what they should remember is that they should do so as thinking Filipinos and not as herded docile cattle. This applies to all sectarian institutions. In the democratic society, the individual must be free to decide by and for himself, without dictation from others.

The results of the last presidential election have amply proved the folly of such regimentation. The colossal blunder of those religious groups is its own sharp rebuke. Their idol stands denounced as a mega-swindler of plunder proportions on top of other heinous offenses. Those gurus who touted him as the nation's hope have soiled the Bible they sanctimoniously invoke.

The affectations of some denominations have turned off many potential converts. Their gestures and gyrations to exhibit their saintliness belong, in my opinion, to a discotheque rather than a place of worship. During their heyday, the *cursillistas* prayed with their arms spread wide as if to proclaim how pious they were. Fortunately, that pretentious fad died eventually although not soon enough.

It is too much to hope for, I suppose, but I still wish our celebration of Easter will not be marred by the raffles and bingos many parishes organize. The supposed purpose is to raise funds for sundry projects, like charity for the poor. The end does not justify the means. Gambling is immoral *per se* and should not be encouraged, much less promoted by the church.

I believe we should celebrate Easter not with ostentation and artificiality but with earnest exultation over the risen Christ. I do not think He will appreciate all these showy religious rituals more appropriate for pagan ceremonies than our humble homage to the Lord. I myself will commune with God in private prayer. I will thank Him for all His bounties, and, yes, implore for our country a new and better life.

A Happy Easter to everyone!

That soon?

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

HOW are you this Easter morning? How you feel today depends a lot on how you went through Holy Week. If you never went into Good Friday, you can never know the real joy of an Easter Sunday. There is no short-cut on the road from Good Friday to Easter. But remember, it is not a long-cut either, for Easter is sure to come. That is the greatest assurance we have from the savior. It won't be night forever. There is hope. Christ has won. Death is not the end. It won't be long. Soon it will be dawn. *Tiyak 'yon*! Why? Because of the Resurrection.

* * *

The Resurrection is the most powerful message of our Christian faith. Every year we go through the whole event of the Paschal mystery. Christ's passion, death and resurrection—and yet we are people who live as if there was no life after death. There are Christians who are more like Epicureans indulging in the pleasures of this world as if there was no reckoning for the next life. Look at them accumulating all the wealth as though they were permanent residents in this world. The message of the Resurrection must move us on. Yes, we can bear sufferings; yes, we can undergo humiliations, injustice and deprivations; yes we can wait; yes we can be strong, because of the Resurrection.

* * *

Remember the story about a mother who scolded her little daughter who was imitating the ugly face of a bulldog? "Stop doing that," she said. And the little child's response was, "Mom, he started it!" This is the picture of us who imitate the ugliness of this world. We are supposed to have been redeemed already, but still we allow ourselves to be influenced by the ugliness of this world. Something qualitatively new has happened in the Resurrection, and yet we still imitate the bulldogs of this world.

* * *

Easter Sunday could be the day of new beginnings or, "as it was in the beginning." Some people start trekking up to Heaven (with all earnestness) on Holy Monday, and start sliding back to hell soon after on Easter Monday. That soon? (By the way, I heard that was how the Datsun car got its name—when the Japanese claimed that they can assemble a car in 3 minutes, the Americans said, "that soon?") I am trying to put some joy and humor here, because joy is one of the messages of Easter, and should be one of the marks of a Christian. Is there joy in your life? Do you radiate joy? Are you a missionary of joy?

* * *

I remember celebrating Mass in a sisters' convent once, and at breakfast, the mother superior was complaining, almost in a soliloquy, why they had no vocations. She kept asking me why the young people are not attracted to their congregation, etc. I did not even have a chance to speak, but deep in my heart, I felt like saying, "Sister, just looking at your face, I know now why you don't get vocations to your congregation." It's true. Our lack of hope and joy—the core messages of the Resurrection—could be the highest stumbling block to our being witnesses to the Risen Lord. He has risen. Don't "kill" Him again.

* * *

Be careful of "resurrecting" the same brand of so-called public servants who are *"trapos"* through and through. They're on the prowl again, those wolves in sheep's clothing who are out to devour us and the wealth of our country with their promises and sweet talk. When, oh when will we ever have self-sacrificing and self-effacing leaders in our country? Let's all pray, hope and work for that day when those with the three G's will dominate the political scene. By three G's, I mean not those who have guns, goons and gold, but those who have God, goodness and guts! *Sana* someday soon. That soon!

* * *

Let us pray that we will all become instruments of Christ's presence and love.

Radiating Christ

"Lord Jesus, help me spread Your fragrance everywhere I go. Flood my soul with your spirit and life. Penetrate and possess my whole being so utterly that all my life may only be a radiance of Yours.

"Shine through me and be so in me that everyone I come in contact with may feel Your presence in my heart. Let them look up and see no longer me but only Jesus! Stay with me and then I shall begin to shine as You shine, so to shine as to be a light to others. The light, O Jesus, will be all from You; none of it will be mine. It will be You shining on others through me.

"Let me thus praise You in the way which You love best, by shining on those around me. Let me preach You without preaching, not by my words but by the catching force, the sympathetic influence of what I do, the evident fullness of the love my heart bears for You. Amen."

* * *

A Moment with the Lord:

Lord, thank you for your Resurrection that gives me so much hope and strength to go on. Help me always to remember. Help me not to forget it that soon. Amen.

HAPPY EASTER TO ALL!

Migration studies: will it get the attention needed?

COMMENTARY

Jeremaiah M. Opiniano
Institute on Church and Social Issues

MIGRATION is a fascinating area of social science research. The phenomenon called human mobility has led sociologists, political scientists and public administration experts to produce research that makes migration a significant but bothersome reality in our current lives.

The Philippines, source of nearly eight million documented and undocumented migrant workers and permanent immigrants, has had its share of migration research. That was why delegates to the Asia-Pacific Migration Research Network (APMRN), which held its fourth biennial conference on March 19-21 here, felt "at home" when they were discussing findings of their research to colleagues in migration studies.

The common finding in most of these studies is the fact that migration brings telling effects to people. Whatever the migration reality may be, from feminization of migrant work, irregular migration, to human trafficking, migration challenges governments to safeguard the welfare of its migrating citizens, and even of immigrants, while it enjoys the economic gains the phenomenon brings. That is a usual refrain in Philippine migration research.

Those who make such research are renowned in the sector here and abroad, like the Philippine Migration Research Network (PMRN). Its academicians come from notable schools like the University of the Philippines, Ateneo de Manila University and De La Salle University. Meanwhile, non-profit institutes like the Scalabrini Migration Center (SMC), run by the Scalabrinian Missionaries from Italy, have produced significant research outputs on migration in the Philippines and in Asia Pacific.

These people do research to directly and indirectly help shape public policy that favors migrants. A common analysis in such research is that governments like the Philippines have trouble formulating and implementing pro-migrant policies. For several years (or probably decades) already, state ineptitude is a frequently mentioned fact in migrant research.

One gets to wonder if indeed, the numerous migration research—mostly made by civil society groups like the NGOs and the academe, are reaching the intended audience very well. It seems that in the Philippines, credible and expertly done scientific studies fall on deaf ears.

For example, the Congressional Commission on Labor submitted last February a report to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo on her administration's platform for the labor sector. In that report, there is little mention of overseas employment. It cited only one study, coming from the UP School of Economics, which tackled the economic gains of migration and its costs to people-on-the-move. But in the report's recommendations, the commission urged the government "to teach workers how to differentiate between potentially bad and good employment situations."

In terms of migrants' welfare, the report said: "Demands have been made for the state to focus instead on the study of and safeguarding against the hazards of foreign employment..." That, however, did not seem to be a suggestion from the commission. Sadly also, not a single research coming from PMRN members like UP, Ateneo and La Salle academicians and SMC was used in that labor commission report.

Who would be happy with the fact that pertinent pro-migrant policies in the country were not addressed during the last session of Congress? During the APMRN conference, Bukidnon Rep. J.R. Nereus Acosta said that the last Congress did not move forward any migration-related legislation. The "significant accomplishment" of Congress in relation to migration was the Anti-Trafficking Bill, which was passed on second reading.

Meanwhile, proposed amendments to the Magna Carta for Overseas Filipinos and Migrant Workers, or Republic Act 8042, were stalled. That important measure alone was the subject of numerous local migration studies, with many saying that it was hastily done. While research, like the 1999 study made by the Development Action for Women Network (DAWN) and the Kaibigan ng OCWs Inc., have called for the immediate amendment of some provisions in RA 8042, it was hardly heard in the sessions halls.

It is sad to realize that despite the prevalence of significant migration public policy research, reforms have been slow, if not non-existent. Instead of contributing to the solution of the problems caused by migration, the circumstances worsen. Such a reality becomes another growing subject for migration research, but not a cause for action on the part of government.

And so the question is "does migration research for pro-migrant public policy remain relevant in the Philippine setting?" Supposedly yes, but there is a real communication barrier between the research and government—two sectors that should work together for the cause of migrants and contract workers. However, there seems to be no state mechanism that welcomes and adopts policy inputs coming from migration research.

It is by "listening" to the message of these studies that Philippine society will be able to manage the growing fears that migration brings to Filipinos. But if government remains deaf and unheeding of these studies, Philippine migration studies will be an unending exercise in futility.

'Stars shining in our lives'

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

HERE is the concluding portion of the valedictory address of Roselle R. Ambubuyog, the blind math major who emerged triumphant from her academic struggles by graduating summa cum laude and valedictorian of her class.

The honors from the Ateneo were not the first for Roselle. I first met her, for instance, when she was honored by the Philippine Blind Union for graduating valedictorian from the Ramon Magsaysay High School, a feat that drew her to the attention of the good Jesuits of Ateneo. Certainly a crucial factor in her academic success was the Ateneo administration's decision to make its campus a more enabling learning environment for Roselle and for other students with disabilities who will surely follow in her path. I have to thank Christie Tan from the "Neveragain" e-group for posting this and making it available to the public. Happy Easter, everyone!

* * *

(T)HE REAL highlights of my college life were the moments when I explored the worlds of other people whose needs were far greater than mine. We Ateneans were not kept in shells of comfort and bliss, but were often drawn out to experience a life of suffering with and for others. I had close encounters with disabled students, particularly blind children who had lost their sight due to the radiation in chemotherapy. I wanted to let them see in me the hope that lies for them and for all those whose fate seems to have taken a bad turn. A grade school boy, Martin Afable, is particularly dear to me. Aside from helping him and his family accept his blindness, I shared with them the ways by which a visually impaired person not born with disability, could cope. Martin and I would go to the movies together to watch "Titanic" or "Godzilla." I would watch the film first with my family, and remember how my brother described the scenes I could not visualize by just listening to the conversations between characters. Then, I showed the Afables how Martin could watch a movie through them, demonstrating as I described the events for him the way my brother did. Spending time with them, I have witnessed how graciously Martin's family loved him. More clearly, because of these experiences, I see how much my own family love and inspire me.

* * *

MUCH of my life is a result of the great sacrifices my family has made and continues to make. My father left the job he held for 23 years just to concentrate on me when I lost my sight in 1986. He drives me to school, picks me up at the end of the day, accompanies me to competitions and always gives me moral support in the various activities in which I participate, although most of the time, all this prevents him from going to Phivolcs, where he is now a consultant. At home, my mother and brothers read to me textbooks and references, since they are not always available in Braille. Therefore, whenever I have to stay up late to study, the whole family is kept awake all night. In fact, I am not alone in graduating with honors; my family, especially my father, deserves even more the recognition I will receive, because my achievements are theirs as well. I can say that although God took away my sight, He has definitely given me many pairs of eyes and now I see better. Somehow, God has done the same for all of us. Everyone experiences disabilities one way or another; mine is just more obvious than yours. We are all fortunate to have loved ones, who help us bear the burdens brought about by our weaknesses. We may find ourselves in the dark, but we should not be afraid to move forward, because we have the light of our stars to count on, and to be thankful for.

* * *

WE thank our teachers for seeing in us our God-given gifts, trusting that we can use them to develop ourselves and nurture others. I want to express my deep gratitude to my special education teachers back in grade school and high school, for opening the eyes of my heart to see, despite my physical blindness. We thank our fellow Ateneans for journeying with us as we went through the process of learning how to soar above the storm, or to bear the painful glare of the sun in our eyes, fearing no blindness, as we confront all challenges.

In behalf of all the scholars, I thank our benefactors for showing us the joy in giving out of what we need ourselves, so that the welfare of those with greater need may be promoted. As a scholar of the Ateneo Schools Parents' Council, I am indebted to the whole Ateneo community, especially to all parents, for giving me the opportunity to receive the best education.

Likewise, we commend the organizations we worked for and with, in order to extend our services to others. I particularly praise the efforts of the Resources for the Blind Inc., a nonprofit organization that has met the special needs of the visually impaired in different ways: from providing the equipment that we need, to distributing books and magazines in Braille, large print, or audio format, and to spreading the Word of God by giving the blind free Bibles. May our Lord bless you even more. Finally, words of much love and thanks will never suffice to let our loved ones—immediate family members and relatives—know fully our sincere appreciation for their being here with us. We praise God for choosing them to be the greatest stars shining in our lives. No matter what our weaknesses are, we can most gladly boast about them, for God's grace is sufficient for us, and His divine power is made manifest through the loving acts of these special people.

Congratulations to all of us, and may blessings pour on us in the years to come.

Thank you and happy graduation!

Christ-like or Pinoy-like?

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

IN THIS season of Lent, we may forgive Raymond Fortun, Joseph Estrada's young lawyer, for suggesting that the willful prosecution of his client recalls Christ's own persecution. At a recent press conference, he said: "Two thousand years ago, Christ was falsely accused, deprived of his right to defend himself, thrown to the mob and put to death...I cannot claim any similarity between our Lord and my client. What I decry is the recurring thirst for blood in this new kind of crucifixion."

He could have gone further and pursued the rich parallelisms that this script had to offer. That Christ was hounded for claiming He was the Son of God, while his client is now being hooted for claiming he is still president. That Christ came to earth to redeem the sins of humankind, while Erap went into politics to rescue the masses from poverty. That in both instances, the upper classes that felt threatened in their power got rid of these two charismatic men.

The analogy is however unsustainable, if not blasphemous, as peasant leader Rafael Mariano sharply retorted: "An unapologetic adulterer and an ousted president who was deposed because of corruption is like Christ? Definitely not. Christ did not sleep with several women, did not steal from public coffers, did not hide any loot under aliases and did not build lavish mansions using plundered funds."

Mariano is absolutely right. But in a culture where the passion of Christ is used as a framework for a variety of situations, the former president can play the role of innocent victim to enormous effect. The melodramatic Fortun prepared the stage for such a role when he asked plaintively in the same press conference: "Is it not possible that President Estrada might be innocent?" I think he was more or less saying: "If this man is guilty, let the innocent person cast the first stone."

For indeed there is a sense in which Estrada's actions may be accepted under the terms of our culture, so that if he is guilty, then the whole culture is guilty. He is certainly not Christ, but is he every Filipino? Let us revisit the terms of this cultural script, for it may give us a key to understanding the reserve of mass sympathy that Estrada seeks to tap as he campaigns for his own survival in this election.

He may have taken money from *jueteng* operators, but how many politicians have refused contributions from such sources? The flow of *jueteng* money, like so much illegal money during elections, has long been a given in Philippine politics. Some officials use it to augment their meager incomes, or to fuel their electoral campaigns, or to finance their welfare programs. There's nothing extraordinary about it. To pin Estrada down on this charge alone would be the height of hypocrisy.

Does he have undeclared wealth and did he hide it under fictitious bank accounts? True, this may be a violation of law, but the public also believes that, in general, all wealthy people actually conceal a good part of their wealth for any number of reasons—to avoid paying taxes or being the target of kidnappers. What was Erap's fault then? From the standpoint of the community to which he belongs, none except being caught.

Is he an adulterer? But how many Filipino men are paragons of monogamy? The greater sin, Erap will say, is creating families you cannot provide for. On that score, he would be seen as a virtuous man, generous to a fault to all his families and women. If he built mansions for them, he would claim that not a single centavo of public money went into the construction of these homes. Strictly speaking, he is probably telling the truth. These were built by cronies to whom he had previously extended favors.

In Estrada's ethical universe, there is nothing wrong in favoring friends who have been useful to him. Reciprocity is a value he cherishes. It would matter very little to him if these cronies delivered sub-standard goods or services in order to maximize their profits from government contracts. He would surely not raise a howl if the government paid an excessive price for land belonging to a friend in need.

Erap operated in a world in which "*dilihensiya*" is the measure of a clever man. Because he used his power to facilitate the sale of a huge company like PLDT, he felt entitled to a large share of the broker's fee. This was his "*dilihensiya*," part of a day's work. If he was able to get the SSS and the GSIS to invest pension funds to purchase shares of stocks in a crony company like Belle Corp., that too, in his mind, deserved fair compensation. In Erap, the art of the Filipino "*dilihensiya*" attained its perfection.

The one thing he will deny is that he ever knowingly took public funds. To him, that is already corruption. This narrow definition of what is wrong permitted him to engage in a broad range of morally and legally questionable activities without feeling that he had betrayed his oath of office or injured public interest. Of the cases filed against him, the one about the tobacco excise taxes confronts him with a deed that, even by his own definition, constitutes corruption. Naturally, he will deny it in the strongest terms, and, if cornered, blame it entirely on Atong Ang.

Erap can look straight into the eyes of his adoring fans while professing innocence, not only because he is a seasoned actor but also because in his mind he truly believes he has done nothing that other high officials before him have not done.

The Calvary script will not serve Erap. Christ accepted His fate with courage; He showed us how to live. Erap exploited the weaknesses of his culture but denies all responsibility; he shows us how not to live.

* * *

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God's country

MANY of Europe's beautiful churches are nearly empty during Masses. Try Notre Dame in Paris on an ordinary day.

In Hong Kong and Rome it's the Filipino overseas workers that fill up the Sunday Masses.

A recent world survey on people happiness showed that Filipinos scored the highest (92 percent) on happiness. We also got parallel high scores (98 percent) on the importance of religion in our lives. Among the countries in the survey which gave average scores on the importance of religion in life are: United States, 83 percent; Spain, 55 percent; South Korea, 51 percent; Taiwan, 47 percent; Japan 23 percent; and China, 16 percent.

HIGH BLOOD

Minyong Ordoñez

WE'D also like to know the concerns of the sixtysomething and above, what makes their blood pressure rise or makes them sit back, content that all's well with their world and with themselves. —**Ed.**

Now you know why we Filipinos smile and laugh a lot.

Instead of killing fields for ethnic cleansing or *pugot-ulo* for petty thievery, we concoct Imelda hyperboles and Erap malapropisms.

Our biggest expression of umbrage is a giant box-office hit called Edsa I and II, a formless spontaneous multitude, heroism, which astoundingly produces justice without bloodshed or mayhem.

Our coping mechanism is deeply rooted in our spirituality.

Thank God we are a nation of humongous God worshipers.

Once more during the Holy Week, this nation of worshipers will unite their minds and hearts inside crowded churches all over the country in reliving the passion of Christ. For most of us, this divine drama is a participative act. Filipinos in all towns and cities participate in Catholic rites and rituals, beginning with the waving of the *palaspas* on Palm Sunday, up to the procession of the Santo Entierro on Good Friday, ending in a burst of joy in the *salubong* of Easter Sunday.

For this mass display of human contact with God, we credit the Catholic Church for providing the rituals, sacraments and prayers that allow Christians to vivify their faith through the human senses.

Humanizing the Catholic faith is the genius of Filipinos. This is so visible and palpable in the relationship of Filipinos, not only with Christ but also with the Virgin Mary, the mother of Jesus. Many Filipinos behave and think of themselves as children of the Virgin Mary. It is a mother and son, mother and daughter relationship.

Believing in God is relatively easy. But loving God can be difficult. How can a mere person love someone infinite? How can someone love a deity without the physicality?

Some theology pundits say God is so understanding and charitable, He gave us His own mother, to be our mother. A mother—whom we can run to and relate in a human way, our way.

The relationship goes back to history. To the time when the galleon trade between Manila and Acapulco braved stormy oceans for hundreds of years. Back then it was Our Lady of Good Voyage who received the prayers of mariners and merchants for a safe journey.

Now called Our Lady of Good Voyage, the Virgin in Antipolo still attracts thousands of travelers: young shipmates leaving for Scandinavia, muscular men leaving for the oil fields of Saudi Arabia, girls going to work in Hong Kong or Rome, and families immigrating to California—all seek the Virgin's guidance and blessing, pledging their love and loyalty forever.

Last year, Tita Meds, aunt of my wife Encar, came home from New Jersey just to visit the Virgin of Antipolo, our Lady of Mount Carmel and the Basilica at Taal, Batangas. Tita Meds was sick with cancer and died later in the United States, happy that she said goodbye to Mother Mary. Tita Meds must have been a May flower girl who offered roses at the altar of Mary when she was a little girl.

There are many shrines where people's love for the Virgin is manifested: the Virgin of Antipolo in Rizal; the Virgin of Manaoag in Pangasinan; the Virgin of Peñafrancia in Naga: La Naval; Our Lady of Ubanon in Samar; Our Lady of Lourdes in Quezon City; Our Lady of Mount Carmel also in Quezon City.

Go to Baclaran on Wednesdays and witness thousands of Filipinos come to the Mother of Perpetual Help, a real mother to millions for the last 60 years.

In Baclaran, a girl may be praying for a boyfriend, a young man for a job, a wife for the return of a wayward husband, and an old woman for a cure of cancer—anything and everything can be asked for. The prayers come from the heart. It does not matter much whether a prayer is answered or not. Just like a real mother, sometimes the request is granted, at other times the answer is no. It does not matter.

The asking, the talking, even the crying to a mother is soothing enough.

The faith of the Filipino male is equally demonstrative and simple. Just watch jeepney drivers make the sign of the cross when passing the church, or the hunky PBA player do the same before taking a foul shot. See muscular macho men, shoulder to shoulder in the huge sea of people at the Plaza Miranda celebrating the feast of the Black Nazarene. These men from all over congregate to fulfill a *panata*, a public homage by carrying Christ and His heavy cross. A *panata* is a personal pledge of servitude and worship to the martyred Christ.

Faith becomes more beautiful and sincere when expressed in child-like ways.

Farmers in Pulilan, Bulacan dress up their carabaos with colorful rural art on the feast of harvest. They bring the animals on the morning of the feast day to kneel in front of the church.

Jaime Cardinal Sin, our prince of the Church, personifies our dependence on prayer. When he gets exasperated with Malacañang tyrants or corrupt presidents, he prays for a quick change of leadership and the heaven's literally shake. More so when he tells his battalion of nuns to do non-stop vigil in front of the Blessed Sacrament. Two Malacañang occupants have already been thrown out.

The miracle of Edsa I and Edsa II can't be told without fervent prayers said publicly in the streets by the multitudes of people power, inclusive of rosaries said in hundreds of churches and household oratorios, *de Aparri hasta Jolo*. This is God's country. A nation of humongous God worshipers. A nation whose people behave as children of the Holy Mother.

Minyong Ordoñez is chair and CEO of Basic Advertising.

THEY SAID

No rosy future

"I foresee that it won't be a rosy future for the state of human rights under his watch."

—Marie Hilao-Enriquez of human rights group Karapatan on Lt. Gen. Diomedio Villanueva

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JUAN V. SARMIENTO JR., Editor

Voter's Voice Eleksyon 2001

Senatorial candidates play the 'jueteng' game

TEN out of the 13 senatorial candidates of the administration's People Power Coalition (PPC) are against the legalization of jueteng, the numbers game that led to the downfall of Joseph Estrada as President.

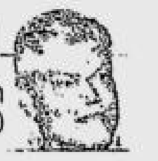
The opposite holds true for the opposition's Pwersa ng Masa coalition. Ten of its candidates are for jueteng's legalization. Two are against.

Of the five independents not allied to either the PPC or Pwersa, three oppose legalization.

The difference between PPC and Pwersa disappears when it comes to the lifting of the 40-percent cap on foreign equity in public utilities.

Like their counterparts in Pwersa, PPC candidates are divided on the proposal to lift the cap. Most candidates agree, however, that guns should be banned in public places except for men in uniform and security guards.

This section will publish the stand of the candidates on other citizens' concerns in the coming issues.

Senatorial Candidates (Interviews by Juliet Javellana, Christine Avendaño, Dona Pazzibugan, Volt Contreras and Gerald Lacuarta)	**Lifting of 40-percent limit on foreign equity in public utilities**	**Gun control in public places**	**Legalization of jueteng**
 Adaza, Homobono (Independent)	Public utilities should be absolutely for Filipinos because these can involve national security. Any foreign infusion into these companies can be utilized to undermine the national interest.	Absolute gun control. There should be gun control on everybody except when the military and the police are in specific operations.	No, because I think this is one of the gambling activities which erode the moral fiber of our people. What needs to be done is strict enforcement of the law.
* **Angara**, Edgardo (LDP, Pwersa ng Masa) 	Filipinos deserve better and affordable service from public utilities. It is high time that we take an in-depth review to study the pros and cons of lifting the 40-percent cap.	Yes. Why do we need guns in public?	No. I am against all forms of gambling. Kids should study and work hard to succeed in life.
 Arroyo, Joker (Ind., People Power Coalition)	No. No. It's against the Constitution.	My golly, this is an old existing law, which has never been enforced.	No. I've always been against legalizing jueteng. It seems that whenever government can't cope with a problem, they legalize it. That's not good governance.
* **Canoy**, Reuben (LDP, Pwersa) 	No. Public utilities should not be in the hands of foreigners.	Yes, very much so. People who have guns tend to create trouble.	Yes, so that the government can regulate it.
 Chato, Liwayway (Ind., PPC)	Not at this time. We must first strengthen the ability of Filipino firms to compete in the free market.	Yes, for safety reasons. People should not be carrying guns or we will end up like the Wild, Wild West.	I am against jueteng.
* **De Castro**, Noli (Ind., Pwersa) 	While it is tempting to make such a move, particularly during an economic crisis, I maintain that the cap on foreign ownership in public utilities must remain.	Some say our peace and order situation merits the carrying of guns even in public places. I do not agree.	Certainly not. While it is commonly perceived that a sizable amount contributes to our underground economy, Filipinos must not be encouraged to entrust their plight to a game of chance.
 Defensor Santiago, Miriam * (PRP, Pwersa)	Yes, on condition that foreign ownership will subsequently be reduced, after the country achieves industrial take-off.	No, because the culture of corruption will be unable to enforce a gun ban.	Yes, because no President has ever succeeded in eliminating jueteng.
Drilon, Franklin (Ind., PPC) 	I am not in favor. We should preserve the exploitation of natural resources for the country.	I am in full agreement. Only the uniformed law enforcers and those in the intelligence service should carry them.	I'm against it because it erodes the moral fiber of our society. I have already filed bills in the Senate increasing the penalty for jueteng.
 Ejercito Estrada, Luisa * (Ind., Pwersa)	Yes, in the interest of attracting new investments, producing jobs and starting new businesses where there is no domestic capital or where Filipino businessmen are afraid to venture in.	Yes. Firearms owned by private citizens should be kept at home to reduce violence in the streets and the community.	Let us legalize jueteng but require operators to pay the correct taxes. This will stop the corruption of officials and make the game transparent. It will generate billions of pesos for the national treasury.
* **Enrile**, Juan Ponce (Ind., Pwersa) 	Yes. I'm in favor of lifting the cap on foreign ownership of public utilities so that we can attract foreign capital to upgrade public services such as transportation, water and communications and to foster competition.	Yes. I am in favor of the proposal to ban guns in public places.	I'm in favor of leaving it up to the local government units in consultation with their constituents. If they legalize jueteng, the income must go to basic services and infrastructure in their own localities.
 Flavier, Juan (Lakas, PPC)	I am open to that *basta* may adequate controls.	If it's for the election period, *OK sa akin pero yung* distinction *na kung sino ang pwede kagaya ng pulis dapat maliwanag. Yung* exceptions *sa* individuals, *dapat mas mahigpit.*	I am open to it. Based on the testimonies in the Senate, it can be done and the revenues can go to the government. This would stop bribery and corruption of officials.
Herrera, Ernesto (Lakas, PPC) 	That means amending the Constitution. Let's study it carefully.	I'm all for it.	I'm against it.
 Honasan, Gregorio * (Ind., Pwersa)	No. Public utilities should be controlled by Filipinos to protect our national interests and assert our sovereignty.	Yes, this will lessen incidents of the irrepressible use of guns. But before everything else, we must conduct an inventory of all firearms—legal, loose and illegal.	Yes. It has been part of our culture for centuries. Instead of fighting it, we might as well come up with a system in which the government can earn revenues and provide funds for basic services.
* **Lacson**, Panfilo (LDP, Pwersa) 	Only in capital-intensive public utilities as we don't have enough local investors who have the financial resources to put in large amounts of money in these areas.	Yes. There is no reason for any civilian to carry a firearm in public places unless of course there are real threats to his life.	Yes, if done with transparency and all revenues accrue to gov't. No gov't has been able to eradicate jueteng because many officials have dipped their fingers in the game. The best way to address this problem is to legalize it.
 Lozano, Oliver (KBL)	No, even if the rationale for the lifting is justified by the lack of incentives for local investors. In lieu of the lifting, local investors must be given more incentives.	There should be fair and reasonable control and strict requirements in the issuance of licenses and permits. Only responsible gun owners should have guns.	I am in favor of legalizing jueteng so there would be funding for public services instead of only private individuals (jueteng operators) becoming rich.
Madrigal, "Jamby" (LDP, Pwersa) 	No, the playing field is not yet level.	I agree, but in an ideal world. But if the law can't be enforced, then the right of a person to defend himself (should be there).	Yes, as long as proceeds go to the government's coffers for pro-poor programs.
 Magsaysay, Ramon Jr. (Ind., PPC)	I think that is a done deal. The power sector has been unbundled and the generating companies can be 100-percent foreign.	I've always been a member of the Gunless Society even before I became a senator. In fact in 1989, Art Macapagal and I signed a manifesto supporting a gunless society.	Personally, I am for stopping jueteng. It's a pernicious gambling game that deprives families of their basic needs.
* **Mercado**, Orlando (Ind., Pwersa) 	Not at the moment. Without lifting the cap (and amending the Constitution), we were able to improve our telecommunications and water utilities.	Definitely. As it is, even men in uniform and security guards abuse their right to possess guns. A total gun ban is like a total log ban: it will make crime easier to detect.	Not jueteng in particular but gambling, so that gamblers can be taxed and the proliferation of gambling regulated.
 Monsod, Solita (Aksyon Demokratiko, PPC)	There is a ceiling now but for all intents and purposes it is lifted. Look at PLDT. So it's a moot question as far as I'm concerned.	Total agreement.	If they are legalizing lotto, it doesn't seem logical that they should keep jueteng illegal. If we cannot stop jueteng, we can at least collect taxes from it and there would be less corruption.
* **Morato**, Manuel (Independent) 	Yes, because Filipino investors go the roundabout way by using dummies to disguise ownership. Let foreign investors come in as they do in many other countries promoting economic progress.	No. Pity the defenseless citizens. Dacer is a perfect example. Non-issuance of permits to carry a gun in public places makes law-abiding citizens easy prey to lawless elements.	Yes, if the PCSO operates it.
 Navarro, Rod (Independent)	Yes, now that we are in the deep blue sea as far as our economy is concerned. We should welcome all kinds of support from other countries.	I'm in favor of gun control with the corresponding exemptions to those (who need to be armed) in the performance of their duties.	Yes, very much in favor. If given a chance to become a legislator, I will favor the legalization of jueteng. My target here is to erase graft and corruption.
Osmeña, Sergio III (PDP Laban, PPC) 	No. That has to be a constitutional amendment. We will leave that to a constitutional convention.	I think we should ban guns all over the place. In England, they are very strict about it and even the police do not often carry guns.	Well, if it cannot be stamped out, yes but not in the manner that Erap did it. It should not be given to the jueteng operators.
 Pagdanganan, Roberto (Lakas, PPC)	We should not surrender ownership in public utilities. There are certain instances that we can do that such as in the area of information technology.	Yes. It's the best way to ensure peace and order.	No. There are already so many gambling games in the country. There are other priorities to attend to like ensuring the creation of more jobs.
Pangilinan, Francis (Liberal Party, PPC) 	That will have to go through some consultations.	I agree. I believe in that.	I am against it because the syndicates would look for another illegal activity. It's not the solution.
 Puno, Ricardo Jr. (LDP, Pwersa)	No response.	No response.	No response.
* **Rasul**, Santanina (Ind., Pwersa) 	First, we have to study the impact and weigh the pros and cons on the lives of our citizens and the economy.	Yes. I dream of a gunless society where policemen only need to use nightsticks like Scotland Yard in London or Singapore or Malaysia.	Why not? We have Pagcor and PCSO already. Legalized jueteng gets rid of one source of corruption: protection money for jueteng operations.
 Recto, Ralph G. (Lakas, PPC)	We should allow investors to come in. But not in owning land in the country.	I am for gun regulation and proper licensing of guns.	No. I am not in favor of gambling.
Sabio, Camilo (Independent) 	Not for the moment, unless I'm convinced in a public hearing that a change in the percentages would serve the interests of our people. This would require a constitutional amendment.	I'm in favor of gun control but exemptions should be subject to a hearing.	No, for in the end it would be harmful to the character of our people.
 Tamano, Ombra (LDP, Pwersa)	Strategic industries should never be in the hands of foreigners. In others, in the non-strategic industries, okay.	Yes. Even policemen should not have guns while in civilian attire or when they are not covered by a mission order.	Yes, because of possible revenues for the government.
Tañada, Wigberto (Liberal Party, PPC) 	No. We need investments but I'm not in favor of lifting the ceiling. Public utilities should always be controlled either by government or by Filipinos.	I filed a bill on that during the 11th Congress. I'm in favor of that.	No. I think that will not help in our campaign to strengthen the moral values of our people.
 Villar, Manuel Jr. (Ind., PPC)	I will have to look at it on a case-to-case basis. I am prepared to lift that ceiling in many areas. But in the power sector we can control transmission. *Meron pa ring dapat i*-reserve for local.	OK *lang yun. Yun ang maganda.* Why do you have to carry guns?	It's not a good signal to legalize it, especially at this time.
Yasay, Perfecto (Independent) 	I'm in favor of lifting that ceiling. Public utility companies must be given to those who can provide the most efficient service and at the least cost to the people.	I'm in favor of gun control. Period.	No. Gambling in any form, to me, will just contribute to the distortion of our moral values. There is a great need for us, in fact, to raise the level of moral standards.

* Submitted written answers

Page design and illustration by Ernie Sambo

Teachers want ₱3,000 pay for 25-hour election duty

By Blanche S. Rivera

PUBLIC school teachers have reiterated their call for an increase in compensation for election duty citing the "complexities" of their "25-hour" job.

The 13,000-strong Manila Public School Teachers Association appealed to the Commission on Elections to look deeper into the physical and financial conditions of teachers who would be manning the polling precincts on May 14.

The MPSTA asked for a P3,000 payment for their services, including insurance for physical injury or even death as a result of their poll duties.

Pedro Arao, MPSTA president, said the "magnitude and complexities of the role of teachers during elections" would justify the increase.

He said teachers work 25 hours on election day, as they are required to report at the polling centers an hour before voting starts at 7 a.m. From 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. they will oversee the voting. From 3 p.m. onwards, they will count the votes, fill up the forms and bring the ballot boxes to the canvassing centers, a process that usually ends around 7 a.m. the next day.

"If you divide 25 hours by eight hours, it boils down to a three-day work week," Arao said. "This is without considering the continuous hours of work which result in the exhaustion and fatigue of teachers."

He said the P800 per diem should be increased to P1,000 and then multiplied by three, equivalent to the number of working days of teachers.

Arao also pressed for the prompt payment of the teachers' per diem, adding that in the past payments were made only after the winners have been proclaimed.

The teachers should also be assured of medical assistance and legal protection from being harassed by losing politicians, Arao said.

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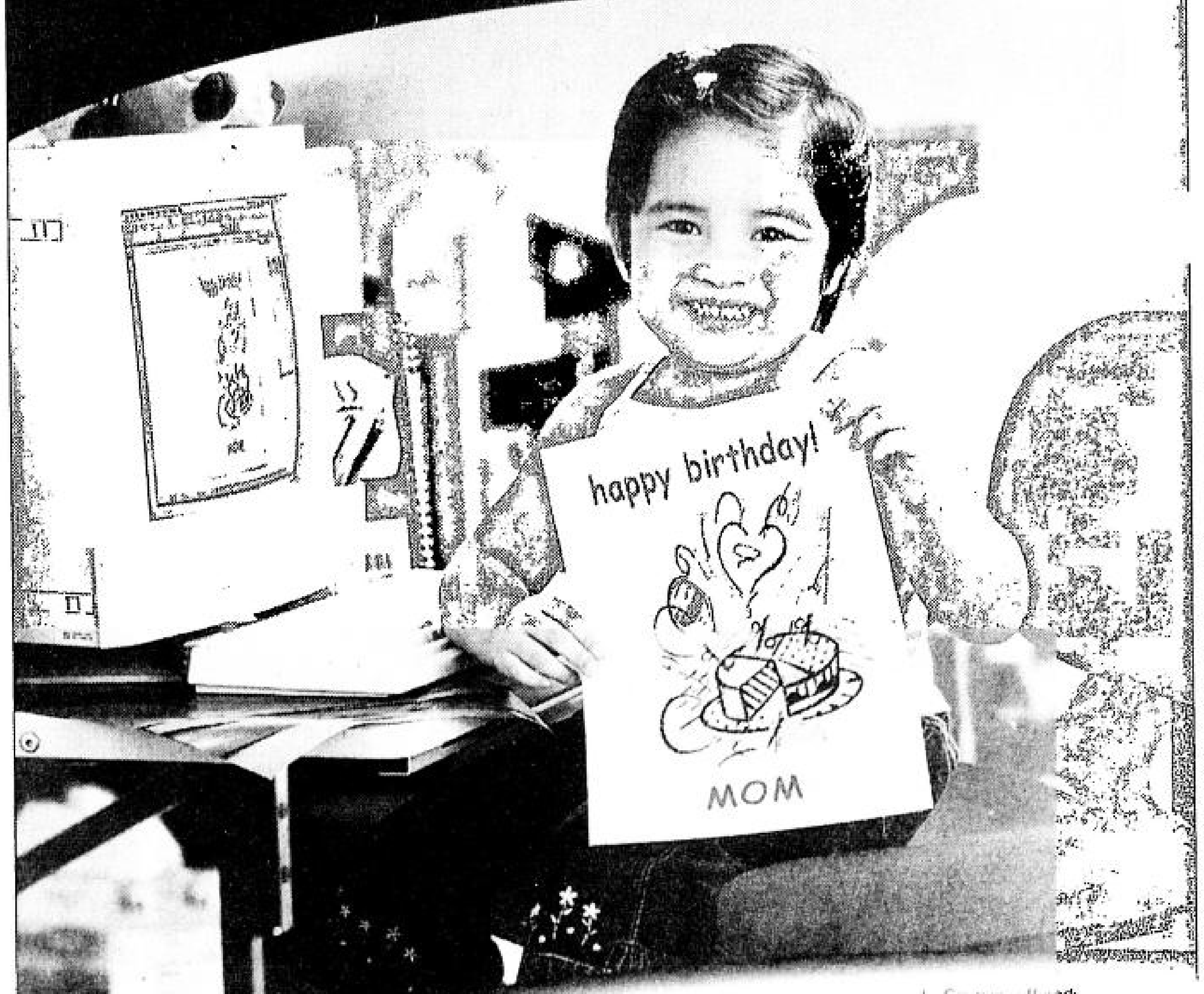

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Life Together

US hardens position, pins mid-air collision on China

WASHINGTON—The United States placed the blame firmly on China Friday for the collision between a US spy plane and a Chinese fighter, rapidly hardening its position ahead of a highly sensitive meeting on the incident next week in Beijing.

In its most comprehensive account so far of the April 1 mid-air drama over the South China Sea, Washington claimed Chinese fighter aces had been harassing its planes for months, and warned the world not to be fooled by "Chinese propaganda" over the affair.

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld argued that the collision was the culmination of months of "aggressive" Chinese flying designed to intimidate the crews of US planes.

"It is clear that the pilot intended to harass the crew," Rumsfeld told reporters at the Pentagon. "It was not the first time that our reconnaissance and surveillance flights flying in that area received that type of aggressive contact from interceptors.

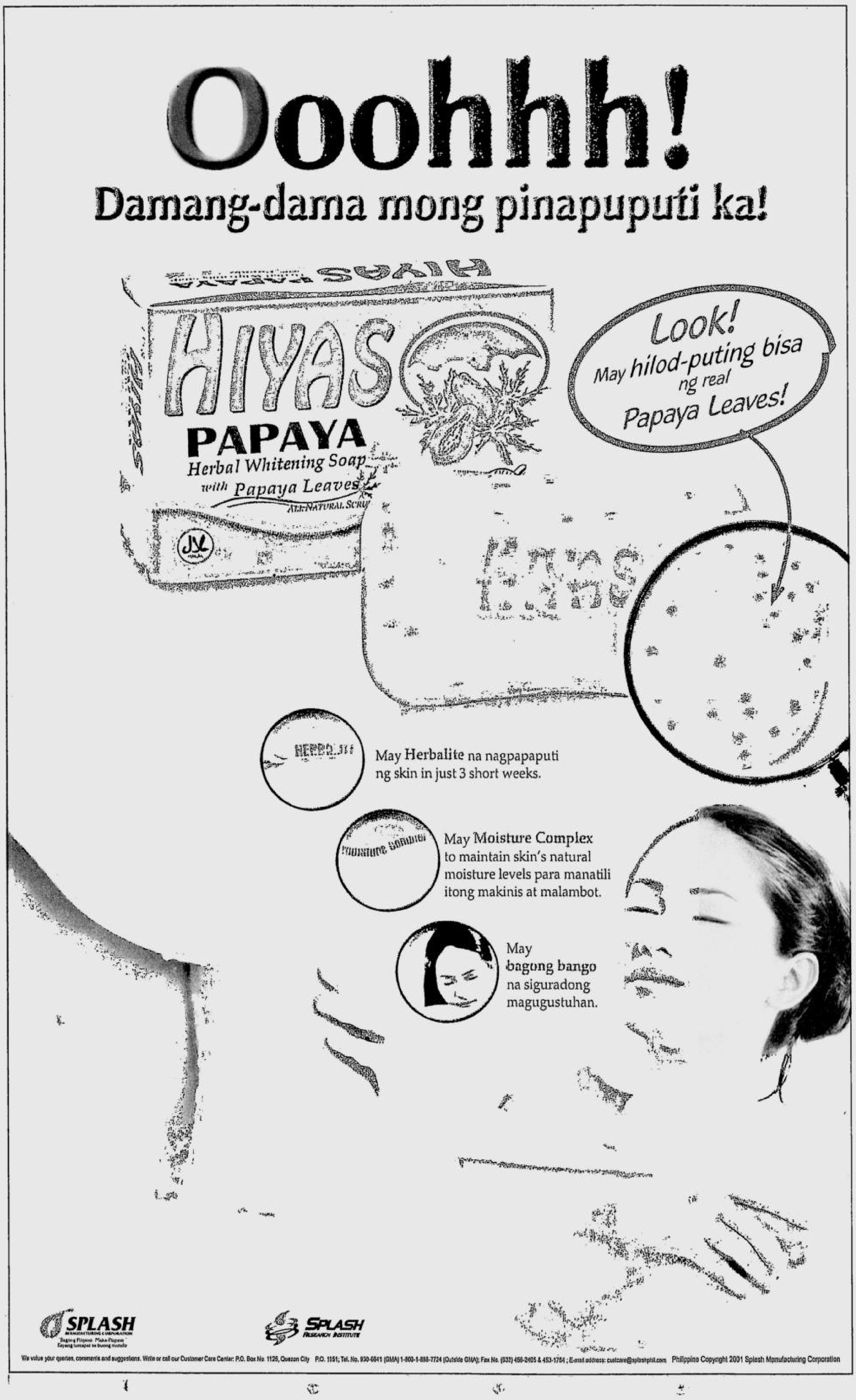
"We had every right to be flying where we were flying," said Rumsfeld, noting that the US plane was in "international airspace."

Rumsfeld showed video images shot from a US surveillance plane on a previous flight to the fateful mission in which the E-P3 bristling with surveillance technology was forced into an emergency landing on China's Hainan island.

A Chinese F-8 jet was seen edging to within a few feet of the plodding propeller-driven E-P3 and causing air turbulence.

Rumsfeld admitted China had the right to observe US flights but concluded: "The F-8 pilot clearly put at risk the lives of 24 Americans."

The US version of events differs starkly from China's. *AFP*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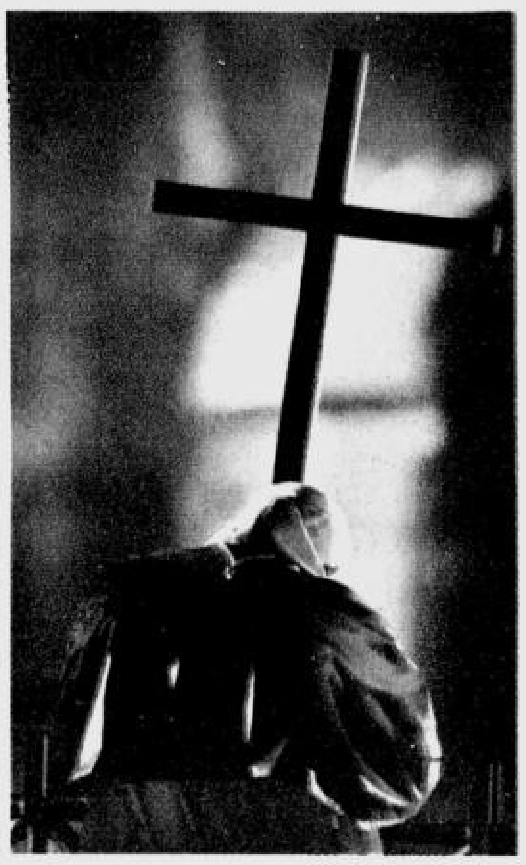

POPE John Paul II holds a cross at Rome's ancient Colosseum during the traditional Via Crucis (Way of the Cross) ceremony April 13. REUTERS

Frail pope cuts back Easter sked

ROME—A frail Pope John Paul II watched the traditional Good Friday procession in Rome's ancient Colosseum while kneeling, for the first time not walking the half-kilometer route in the rite that evokes Christ's suffering and death.

The 80-year-old pontiff viewed the procession from a podium on the Palatine hill outside the 2,000-year-old arena, which was bathed in golden torchlight against Rome's clear, night sky.

John Paul, who has trouble walking and suffers from the symptoms of Parkinson's disease, entered the procession after the 12th of the 14 stations of the cross, which chart Christ's last hours before being crucified.

He carried the light wooden cross for only the last station, handing off the cane he had used to his private secretary and walking the few steps slowly, unassisted, clutching the cross with both hands.

In comments to the thousands of faithful ending the ceremony, one of Christianity's most solemn, John Paul scrapped his prepared text and instead spoke off-the-cuff to recall that the Roman Catholic Church had marked Christ's crucifixion for 2,000 years.

"Today, for the first time in this third millennium... we proclaim it in all the world and here in Rome, with this Via Crucis inside the Roman Colosseum," he said, his voice tired but clear.

"May this truth be for us the light and strength in these times," he said. *AP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Gaza shelling resumes

JERUSALEM—An armed Palestinian was shot and the Palestinians resumed mortar fire against Israelis in the Gaza Strip at the end of a day of relative quiet, an Israeli army spokesman said Saturday. Israeli soldiers saw the Palestinian approaching their outpost at Tel Katifa in the southern Gaza Strip and opened fire, hitting him, the army spokesman said. Two mortar bombs exploded close to the same outpost, but nobody was hurt, the spokesman said. *AP*

Wahid ready for probe

JAKARTA—Embattled Indonesian President Abdurrahman Wahid says he is ready to be investigated for corruption and nepotism, the official Antara news agency reported on Saturday. "Please, look into cases of corruption, collusion and nepotism in my family. If any, please arrest us," the official Antara news agency quoted Wahid telling Muslim clerics in the Javanese town of Kudus on Friday. Wahid's political enemies frequently accuse him of corruption and nepotism, charges he denies. He is under mounting pressure to quit or be impeached after parliament in February censured him over two graft scandals. *Reuters*

Milosevic health worsens

BELGRADE—The health of former Yugoslav president Slobodan Milosevic was worse now than when he was hospitalized two days ago, his Socialist party (SPS) said early Saturday after the disgraced leader returned to prison. A judge had ordered Milosevic's return to prison, in a decision based on the recommendation of medical experts who examined him. *AFP*

CNN fights subpoena

NEW YORK—CNN correspondents faced threats and the misconception that they had become "an arm of the US government" after a CNN interview with Osama bin Laden was shown at the embassy bombing trial, the network said in challenging a subpoena. Subpoenas by lawyers for Mohamed Rashed Daoud Al-Owhali seek photographs and videotape from several news outlets showing violent demonstrations during US air strikes and attacks during the Gulf War, and in Tripoli, Libya, and Panama. CNN said in a letter dated Thursday to US District Judge Leonard Sand that some of its 42 bureaus worldwide learned of potential threats after prosecutors showed the jury material from the Bin Laden interview. *AP*

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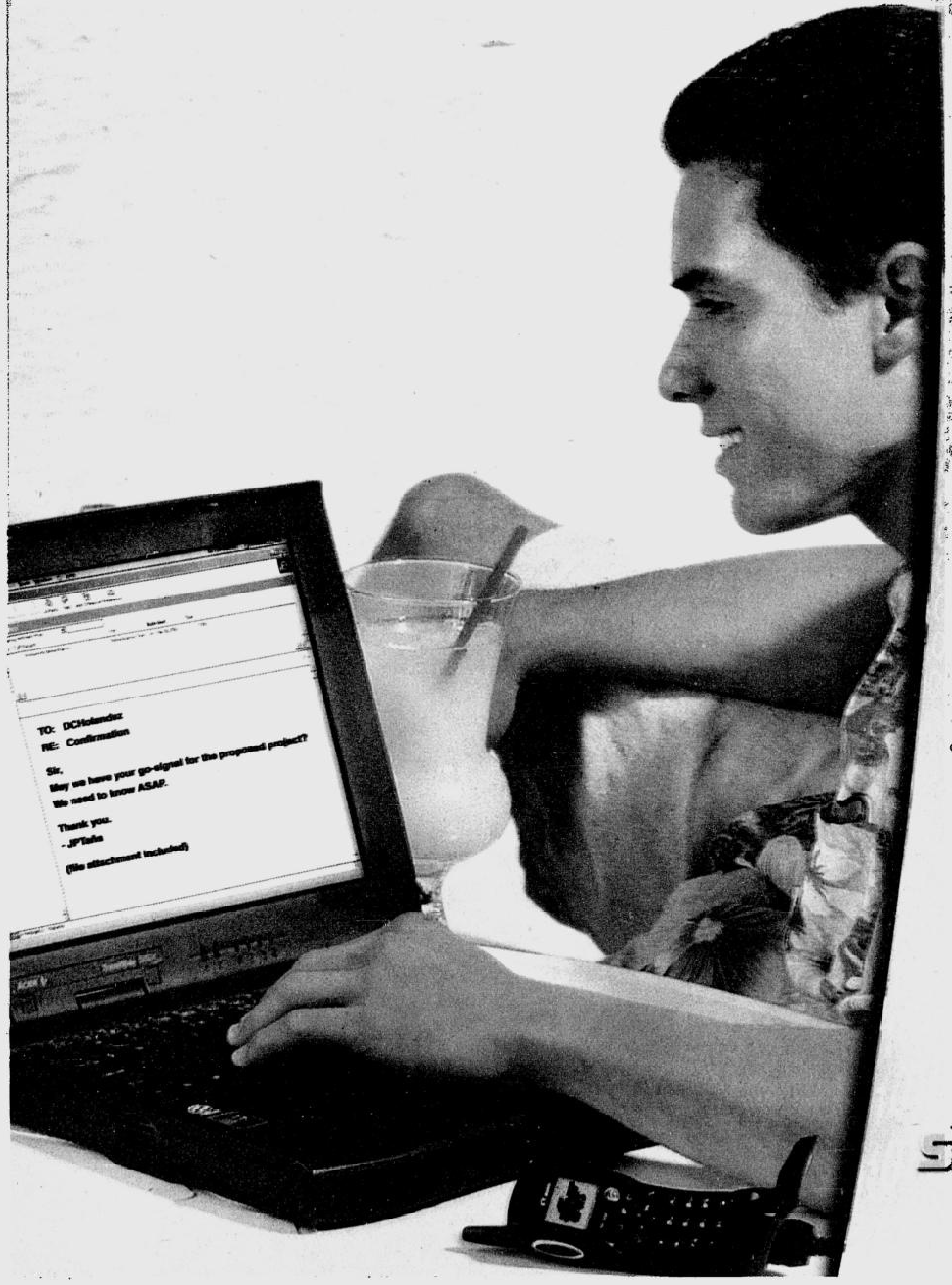

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Bangladesh blast kills 8

DHAKA—A bomb exploded in a crowded park in downtown Dhaka early Saturday, killing eight people and injuring several others, police said.

No one claimed responsibility for the blast. Inspector General of Police Nurul Huda said police were trying to determine who was behind the explosion.

A police official investigating the blast, speaking on condition of anonymity, said it was triggered by a timing device.

A crowd of 2,000 people had gathered at Ramna Park in central Dhaka to celebrate the Bengali New Year when the explosion took place, witnesses said.

Several people were critically injured and the death toll was expected to rise, police said.

Witnesses said they saw police carry away at least eight bodies, some of them torn apart.

"The green grass of the park was stained with blood," said Zia Islam, a photographer who was at the explosion site.

Islam said the sound of the explosion was surprisingly small, considering the number of deaths and injuries.

"I heard a small sound and then saw the area covered in thick smoke," Islam said.

Panicked men, women and children were running and screaming. Some helped police take the wounded to hospital either by ambulances or tricycle rickshaws.

Police cordoned off the site of the explosion, near a small lake in the park.

The explosion occurred at about 8 a.m., when the three-hour ceremony was about to end.

It was one of the dozens of musical festivals that have been organized in the sprawling park to celebrate Pahela Baishak, the Bengali New Year.

A political standoff over when the country's next national election will be held has led to a series of general strikes and many clashes. At least 12 people were killed this month in violence between rival groups who used homemade bombs and guns against each other. *AP*

Cincinnati now calm after days of rioting

CINCINNATI—Scores of people were arrested overnight for curfew violations, but peace was largely restored to the city's streets after three days of rioting over the shooting death of a black man. Officials said Friday the curfew probably would continue until Easter Sunday.

There had been sporadic reports of rock and bottle throwing and gunfire overnight, and a fire at a delicatessen caused $100,000 damage, Police Chief Thomas Streicher said.

But overall, "we believe we are returning to a great sense of normalcy," Streicher said. He said the decision on how long to extend the curfew will be evaluated daily.

There were 153 arrests related to the curfew that lasted from 8 p.m. Thursday to 6 a.m. Friday and drastically changed routines in the city of 331,000. There also were 54 adults and nine juveniles arrested for other charges, Streicher said.

In what was seen as a victory for critics who demanded changes at the police department, the city official who oversees police and fire operations resigned Friday. Safety Director Kent Ryan, 55, cited personal and health reasons. He spent a night in a hospital with chest pains four days ago.

Mayor Charles Luken had reluctantly declared a state of emergency and imposed the dusk-to-dawn curfew Thursday to halt Cincinnati's worst racial violence since the assassination of civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King in 1968. *AP*

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Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

Bishop wages new war on poverty in Antique

BY MA. DIOSA LABISTE
PDI Visayas Bureau

SAN JOSE, Antique—Even as he basks in the warm welcome of Antique folk, the new coadjutor bishop of this province still remembers the flock he left behind in Basilan province.

In his installation rites on April 3, Msgr. Romulo de la Cruz, 54, said his family is happy that he is far from the Abu Sayyaf, a bandit group that has sown fear in Basilan and other parts of Mindanao.

But his 13 years of ministry in the conflict-ridden province had inspired him to work for peace. "For 13 years I served Basilan and at one time wanted to die there," he said.

De la Cruz said no amount of threats, kidnapping and killings made him run away from Basilan. He stuck it out "for better and for worse" until he was appointed Antique diocese coadjutor on Jan. 8, 2001.

Antique Bishop Raul Martirez said De la Cruz was the Pope's "millennium gift to Antique at the start of the third millennium.'"

Jaro Archbishop Angel Lagdameo, in his homily at the installation rites, said the Antique diocese would benefit from De la Cruz's "exciting pastoral experience" in Mindanao where he was the prelate ordinary of Basilan since 1989.

De la Cruz was in Basilan during the rise of Islamic fundamentalism spawned by the dreaded Abu Sayyaf.

De la Cruz thanked the bishops, clergy and lay people in Basilan and Mindanao who supported his ministry. He said he looked forward to challenges in the Antique diocese that welcomed him gladly.

The road leading to the San Jose Cathedral, some 35 kilometers from the territorial boundary of Iloilo and Antique provinces, had yellow and white pennants from well-wishers greeting De la Cruz on his installation day.

Apostolic Nuncio to the Philippines Archbishop Antonio Franco officiated the rites attended by 29 bishops and close to a thousand faithful.

Lagdameo welcomed De la Cruz as a *kasimanwa* (provincemate). "We lay our claim on him as we welcome him today," he said.

De la Cruz traces his roots to the northern Iloilo town of Balasan, 134 km from Iloilo City. His parents moved to South Cotabato in 1953 when he was only 6 years old.

Archbishop Orlando Quevedo, president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, said De la Cruz brings with him to Antique understanding and compassion from working with people of different faiths.

"The people of Basilan loved him for his courage and compassion tempered with justice," Quevedo said of De la Cruz.

Although it does not share the peace and order problem of Basilan, Antique fights its own war against poverty. Separated from Iloilo by a tall and rugged mountain chain, Antique (population: 430,000) is one of 20 poorest provinces in the country.

Agriculture, which is a major livelihood, is backward and relies on eroded slopes because the province's coastal plain was very narrow.

Mining firms also prey on Antique amid the growing anti-mining sentiments of residents.

De la Cruz was ordained priest in 1972 and bishop in 1988. He underwent seminary training at the Notre Dame Archdiocesan Seminary in Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao, the Notre Dame University in Cotabato City and St. Francis Xavier Major Seminary in Davao City.

He served as rector and spiritual director of the Notre Dame Archdiocesan Seminary in Cotabato and parish priest of Tacurong, Sultan Kudarat.

He was coadjutor bishop of the prelature of Isabela in Basilan from 1988 to 1989 and became the prelate ordinary of Isabela in 1989 prior to his appointment to the diocese of Antique.

Highway mishaps kill 1, snarl traffic for hours

CALAMBA, Laguna—A person died while two others were injured when three separate vehicular accidents occurred early Wednesday morning at the South Expressway and the Alaminos Highway.

The triple accidents jammed traffic for about three hours at the South Expressway.

Esteban Gonzales, Philippine National Construction Company (PNCC) security officer, identified the lone casualty as Roger Nabonita of Taguig, Metro Manila, one of the passengers of a Manila-bound cargo truck with license plate THT 502.

The truck rammed through a center island of the expressway and leaped into the opposite lane.

Another cargo truck with license plate TLU 857 spilled its cargo of empty gin bottles into the highway, stopping traffic for about 30 minutes.

In Alaminos town, a Manila-bound JAM Transit bus collided with a cargo truck and slightly injured bus driver Roberto Arevalo of Atimonan, Quezon.

The collision stopped traffic along the highway for at least three hours. ***Romulo O. Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Capiz bets open box of gimmicks to woo voters

BY GERRY T. PAGHARION
PDI Visayas Bureau

ROXAS CITY—They will do anything for a vote. To say that candidates in Capiz have come up with novel ideas to woo voters is an understatement.

In the first district of Capiz, voters are regaled by "sexy girls" dancing to blaring disco music while on board an open truck going around the district.

Streamers of the administration party, People Power Coalition-Uswag Capiz-Liberal Party, were all over the truck.

But the biggest of these streamers bore the name of first district congressional candidate, Rodriguez Dadivas, who was anointed by Trade Secretary Mar Roxas to replace him in the district.

The girls used to wear shorts and backless blouses, according to residents in the district. The attire was later changed to shorts and T-shirts after they were criticized by the residents for being too daring.

The campaign strategy, which residents dubbed as "Live Show," was a box office hit in the district.

Not to be outdone, former Capiz Gov. Esteban Contreras, Dadivas' lone opponent, has his own way of winning the hearts of voters.

A physician, Contreras has been busy "curing the sick" in the district. He was also seen distributing medicines to the people in the district's remote areas.

But for Claudio Anisco, the opposition's vice mayoral candidate for Roxas City, the best way to the voters' heart is still through their stomachs.

Anisco and his supporters have been going around the city barangays giving out *arroz caldo* (rice porridge with chicken meat), noodles, matches, rice and dried fish to residents.

Anisco is challenging reelectionist Vice Mayor Roberto "Bobby" Ignacio who is being backed by the influential Roxas clan.

Mayoral candidate Rey Antonio Jose "Bingo" Altavas of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino also created his own gimmick to get voters' attention. He was seen distributing packets of biscuits, of the Bingo brand, that also were attached with small stickers that read "vote."

The stickers were placed right before the brand name so that it would read "vote Bingo."

Altavas, the lone challenger of reelectionist Mayor Antonio del Rosario (LP), has been telling voters here that his return bout with Del Rosario has a reason.

"If not us, who? If not now, when?" was Altavas' battlecry.

Del Rosario's campaign strategy is still the conventional "barangay consultations." He has also been telling city voters that it is better not to vote for him if they will not vote for his partymates.

He is particularly concerned with the fate of Ignacio, his runningmate.

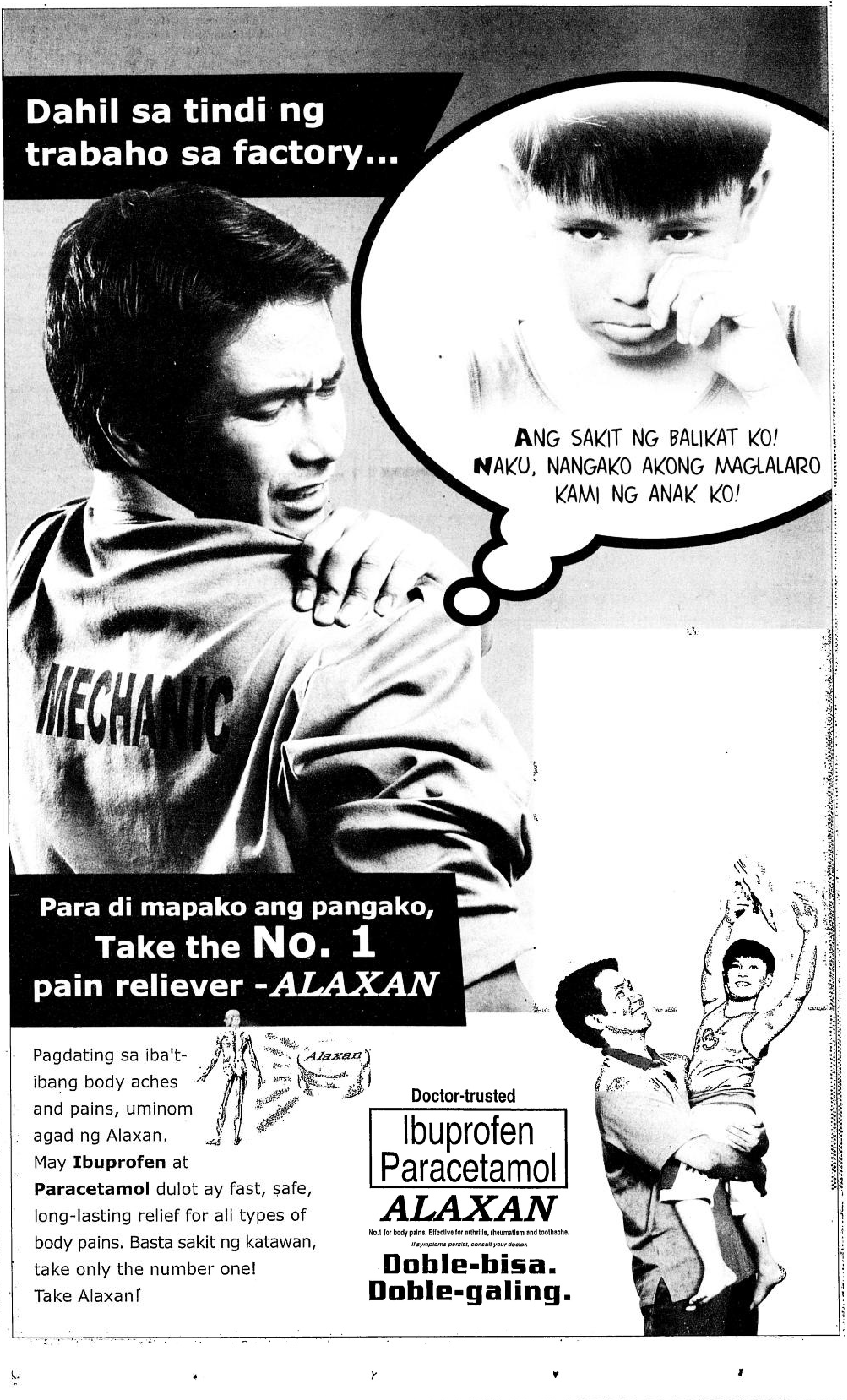
"The people of the city cannot expect good and effective governance if my partner is not Ignacio," Del Rosario said in one of his campaign sorties here.

The one-on-one gubernatorial race has, meanwhile, been reduced to the battle of the heavy equipment.

Reelectionist Capiz Gov. Vicente Bermejo (LP) and his challenger, last-term Rep. Vicente Andaya Jr. of the second district, have fielded pieces of heavy equipment bearing their names to fix roads in remote areas of the province.

Taking the cue from Bermejo and Andaya, second district congressional candidate Frednil Castro (LP) reportedly bought his own set of heavy equipment as part of his campaign strategy.

Castro is facing lone challenger Vicente "Jonjon" Andaya Jr.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INQUIRER Mindanao
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THE URNS containing the cremated remains of the crash victims were distributed to grieving families last year. Relatives of the victims say the grieving is over but the quest for justice continues. GENE BOYD R. LUMAWAG

FLIGHT 541 A YEAR AFTER

Grief ends, crusade starts

By Jowel F. Canuday
Davao City

FOR LACH Daswani, whose eldest son, Anil, was among 131 persons who perished in the Air Philippines Flight 541 crash on Holy Wednesday, last year, this year's April 19 "will be the Easter of our lives, our resurrection because from that day on, there will be no turning back in our quest for justice."

She said a part of them also died with their loved ones but step by step, they have managed to come to terms with the reality that they are gone and that it's time to make someone answer for it.

The Flight 541 crash on Holy Wednesday, April 19 last year, was the country's worst air accident.

Lach and other relatives could not hold back their tears when they met with the press two Saturdays ago.

The relatives, however, declared the tears are no longer an expression of grief but anger over their yearlong quest for justice.

Year of crusade

"My family has declared we have to end the year of grieving. The second year should be a year of crusade," said Dr. Veronica Mallari-Deniega who lost a sister, brother-in-law and two nieces.

Ma. Luisa Mallari, a professor at the University of the Philippines in Diliman, her Australian husband, Martin Hall, a teacher at the International School, their two daughters and a nanny, had boarded Flight 541 from Manila to spend the Holy Week in Davao City.

Lach Daswani, Dr. Deniega and relatives of the other crash victims have since organized into the Flight 541 Group Association or Flight 541 Group and are building a case against Air Philippines, officials of the Air Transport Office and even the manufacturer of the ill-fated Boeing 737-200.

The ill-fated aircraft slammed into a coconut plantation in Sitio Kamanlangan, Barangay Camudmud in the Island Garden City of Samal on Holy Wednesday last year, just as it was attempting to land at the Davao International Airport (DIA) some seven kilometers away.

Reinvestigation

Dr. Carlos Tolosa Capitan II, Flight 541 Group president, said they see a long-drawn legal battle in the Philippines and even in the United States where the Boeing 727-200 aircraft is manufactured.

Capitan said they were dismayed by government's "questionable handling" of an earlier probe on the accident. He said they suspect a possible "whitewash in (last year's) investigation of the crash."

Last week, the group asked President Macapagal-Arroyo to immediately order a reinvestigation.

The Flight 541 Group declared as "unacceptable" the 110-page final Committee Report submitted to Malacañang on Dec. 28 by the four-member Independent Investigation Committee (IIC) created by then President Joseph Estrada.

The IIC, chaired by retired Air Force chief William Hotchkiss III, concluded pilot error as the cause of the crash.

The Hotchkiss committee, relying mainly on an investigation report prepared by its Technical Working Group, concluded the crash "was most likely caused by the flight crew's non-adherence to instrument approach procedures by flying visual in an Instrument Meteorological Condition."

The committee's report said data, collated from the Cockpit Voice Recorder (CVR), a device that records the flight crew's voices, sounds inside the cockpit, engine noise, stall warnings, landing gear extension and retraction and other clicks and pop in the aircraft, revealed there was:

- No indication that there was engine malfunction or engine fire prior to impact.
- No aircraft system abnormality prior to impact.
- No inflight explosion.

Lapses

The committee also ruled out a reported defect in the plane's rudder power control unit as possible cause of the crash. It said ocular inspection on the plane's rudder systems showed no sign of hydraulic leaks and that safety wires of the system were all secured.

The committee said the plane was flying at very low altitude behind the slightly overcast skies on the fateful day the plane crashed.

"The crew could have been absorbed in their maneuvers inside the clouds and lost situational awareness with regards to their altitude and proximity to the rising terrain 'resulting into controlled flight into terrain,'" the committee said.

The committee also noted some "clear lapses" on the part of the DIA's air traffic controllers, adding they failed to follow the standard procedures prescribed in the March 17, 1977 Manual of Operations for Air Traffic Services (MOATS).

The committee cited the air traffic controllers' policy of giving only a six-minute interval between planes landing at the DIA.

The plane was set to land at 6:50 a.m. but had to do execute a "missed approach" and go around Samal Island because a Philippine Air Line Airbus 300 that landed ahead of Flight 541 was still taxiing toward DIA's apron.

"If the approach controller had cleared GAP 541 (Air Philippines) at the point when PR 809 (PAL Airbus plane) on finals had reported that the runway was in sight and a landing was assured, the tragic incident would not have happened," the committee said.

Loopholes

But members of Flight 541 Group said the report contained many loopholes.

Capitan said the Hotchkiss committee based its findings mainly on interviews with the pilots and the personnel of Air Philippines and Philippines Airlines.

He said they suspect the Estrada administration may have influenced the result of the findings to protect the owners of the airline.

Filipino-Chinese tycoon Lucio Tan, the biggest contributor to the Estrada presidential campaign in 1998, holds the biggest stake in both airlines.

Capitan said the committee report also failed to factor in information from the Flight Data Recorder (FDR), a device that monitors the plane's altitude, air speed and heading. The device was sent for decoding to the US National Transportation and Safety Board (NTSB) immediately after the crash.

Capitan described as "unacceptable" claims by the committee that no data was recorded in the plane's FDR because it was substantially damaged by fire during the crash.

Capitan said the NTSB, in fact, has not released the decoded data on the FDR.

In the copy of the Committee Report obtained by the INQUIRER, the Hotchkiss committee also failed to include in its final report the manifest of 131 persons who perished in the crash.

"Lingering doubts"

Capitan said the Hotchkiss Committee report also failed to consider testimonies of Samal Island residents who heard an explosion and saw thick smoke from the plane before it crashed.

Capitan also said the dissenting opinion of retired Air Force Brig. Gen. Rodolfo Ecarma, a member of the investigation committee, has "cast doubts at the very heart of the findings of the investigating body."

Ecarma, in a four-page opinion, said the Hotchkiss committee cannot arrive at any conclusion of the probable cause of the accident because its technical working group (TWG) had not unearthed evidences to support its conclusions.

Ecarma also noted the Committee's "lingering doubts" on the declaration of the TWG that its conclusions are still subject to change depending on data retrieved from the FDR and the result of the US NTSB examination on the plane's rudder power control unit.

Mechanical

While the Hotchkiss Committee insists on pilot error as the cause of the crash, the Nolan Law Group, a US-based firm known for its expertise in litigating air accidents, said they had acquired a great deal of information indicating mechanical problem as a probable cause of the crash.

The Flight 541 Group has hired the Nolan firm to help them in their fight for justice.

The relatives received a Dec. 8 report by Thomas Ellis, a partner of the Nolan Law Group, stating that initial analysis made by US-based aircraft accident experts indicated the aircraft had problems with some of its mechanical parts.

Ellis said their experts noted an "uncommanded movement of the right wing flaps" of the aircraft while in flight. He said their experts also found problems with the plane's altitude indicator, leading to incorrect altitude indications.

Junk plane

Ellis also reported that the ill-fated aircraft was operated for 18 years by the US Southwest Airlines, from 1978 to 1996.

The plane was reportedly decommissioned and left in a "junkyard" for aircraft in the Arizona desert from 1996 until Air Philippines bought it in 1998, Ellis said.

Lawyer Manuel Ribbeck, also an associate of the Nolan Law Group, told the relatives during his visit in June last year that three more B737-200 planes used by Air Philippines were also bought under the same circumstances. Ribbeck said the ill-fated aircraft, with serial number 21447, was the 508th B737-200 plane built by the Boeing Company for Southwest Airline.

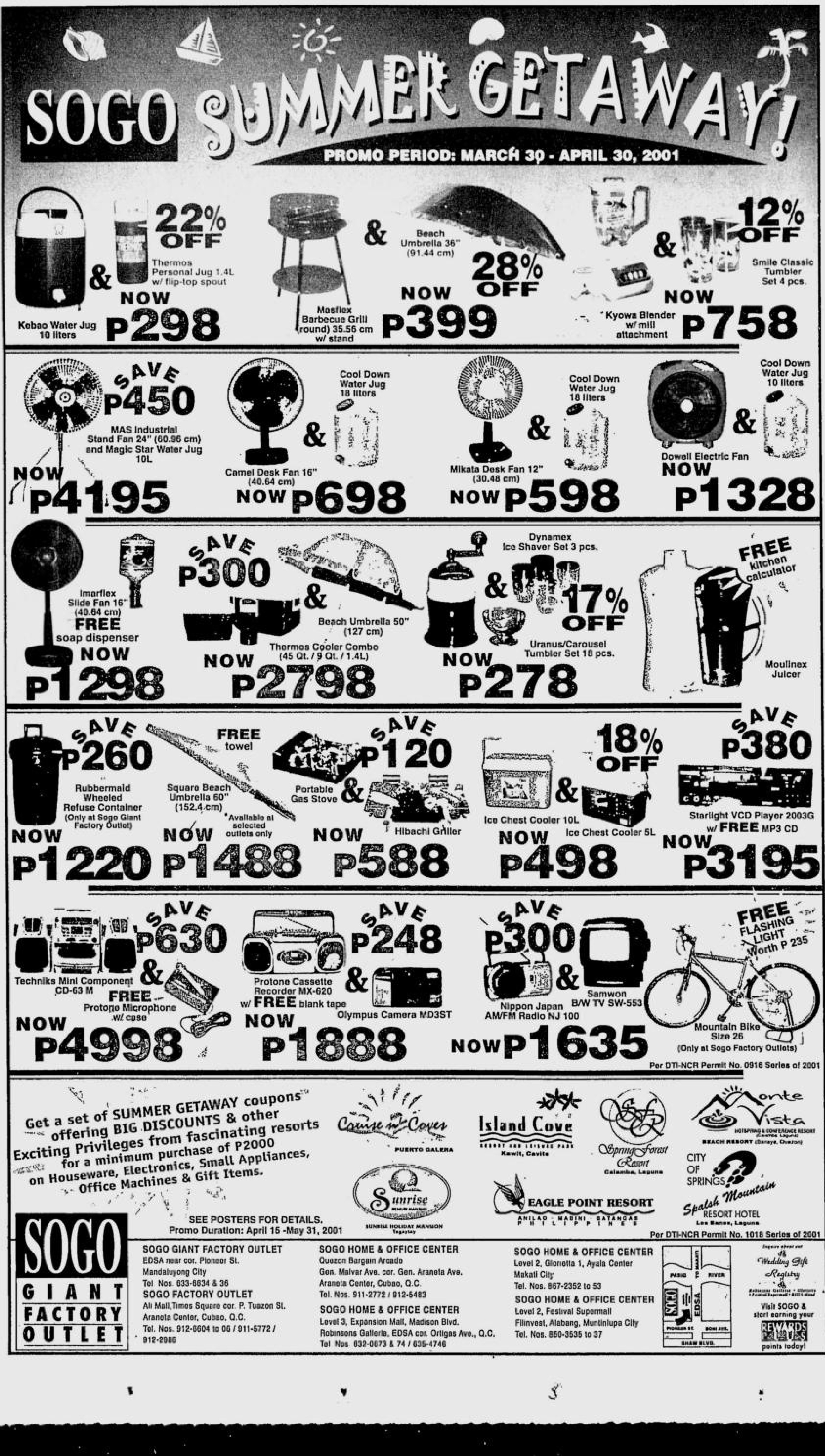
Ribbeck said that on June 18, 1987, the Flight 541 aircraft was involved in a near collision accident in Nashville, Tenessee, shortly after taking off.

He said US Federal Aviation Authority, which probed the crash reported mechanical troubles in the aircraft, in particular its rudder and stabilizers, the components needed to make the plane take off.

The list of evidences gathered by the US lawyers is still growing.

Members of Flight 541 Group say they are aware their fight for justice will take long.

"But we must seek justice and demand reforms not only in our aviation industry but in all sectors in the transportation industry so other families will not suffer the pain we are going through



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Don't mess around with Ping, or else...

(From page A1)

Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino-Puwersa ng Masa (LDP-PnM).

He will embark on a shooting spree at the Luneta should the administration's People Power Coalition (PPC) achieve its hoped-for 13-0 victory at the May 14 elections.

The warning was aired by the man himself during a campaign rally here Wednesday night, wherein he did his own take on the declaration earlier made by fellow LDP-PnM candidate Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, and which she reiterated.

Lacson briefly stunned the crowd of about 600 into silence when, speaking in Filipino, he declared that if Santiago would have herself shot at the Luneta, "I will do the shooting" should the PPC make a clean sweep.

But he added: "I will shoot kidnappers, car thieves, drug lords, and also election cheats."

Lacson told the crowd that the administration was planning electoral fraud, and that the Luzon-wide blackout last April 7 was part of the alleged scheme.

"Only the administration has the capability to cheat in the elections," he said.

The National Power Corp. had explained that the hours-long outage was caused by a technical glitch in one of its main power lines.

A main theme of Lacson's campaign speeches is his claim to having stamped out kidnapping, bank robbery, car theft and mulcting policemen.

According to the ex-chief of the Philippine National Police, who was implicated in the 1995 Kuratong Baleleng "rubout" case, criminal syndicates stopped their operations because they feared him.

Gimmicks

Lacson has been one-upping his fellow LDP-PnM candidates in terms of number and variety of campaign materials and gimmicks.

During the ticket's rallies in Pangasinan and Benguet, six young women clad in short shorts and tight shirts and calling themselves the "Ping Lacson dance group" performed on stage to Lacson's campaign jingle.

The jingle was taken from the theme of "Mission Impossible II."

When he ended his speech, teenaged boys distributed blue balloons bearing the words "Ping Lacson for Senator."

Lacson did not join the market tour in Baguio earlier in the day, but his color posters were plastered all over the city.

He had earlier said his posters and other campaign materials were courtesy of his Filipino-Chinese friends in the business community.

Erap

Lacson, who was the last among the candidates to arrive, left just as his friend, ousted President Joseph Estrada, was starting to address the crowd.

He said he had no objection to seeing Estrada arrested "as long as due process is observed."

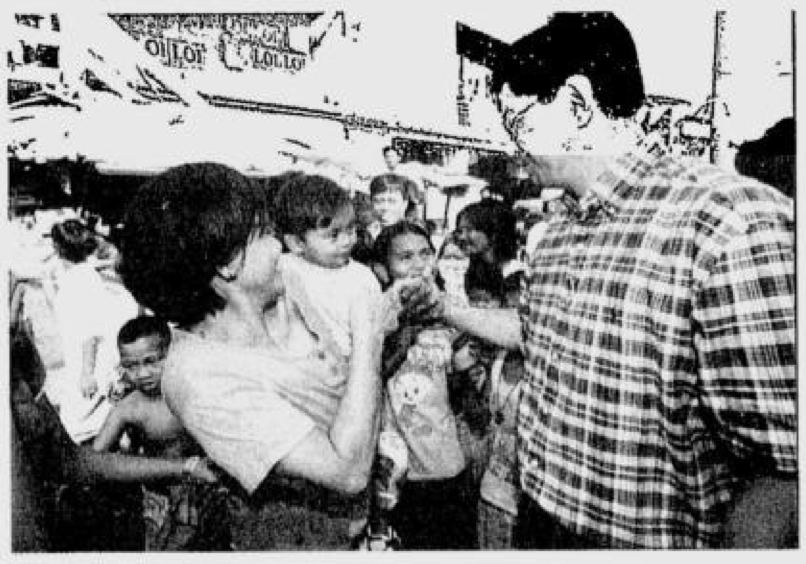
He also said he did not believe that Estrada's expected arrest for plunder and corruption charges would negatively affect the LDP-PnM campaign because, he pointed out, its candidates had been discussing other "substantive issues."

Lacson, whose men are also being linked to the abduction and murder of public relations man Salvador "Bubby" Dacer and his driver Manuel Corbito, said he would cooperate with authorities in the ongoing investigation.

"I wish the NBI the best of luck. I wish they get the real suspects," he said when told by a reporter of forensic findings that the charred remains collected from the alleged murder site in Cavite belonged to Dacer and Corbito.

Two witness-suspects, who led agents of the National Bureau of Investigation to the site, said they had acted on orders from officers of the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force that Lacson once headed.

Asked if he was willing to help in the probe, Lacson said: "Definitely. Everybody is a suspect in this case."



LACSON, the candidate, works the crowd.

East meets West in Easter Mass

(From page A1)

antine elements in this year's Easter Sunday Mass also brings to fore the desire of many Christians around the world to celebrate Easter together.

The Psalms and poetic verses will be proclaimed before the Pope after the reading of the Gospel. The choir will then sing a Russian melody that harmonizes these passages.

For the first time in his 22-year papacy, the Pope followed the Stations of the Cross from his prayer stool after deciding not to carry a wooden cross throughout the traditional Good Friday ceremony marking the crucifixion of Christ. *(See World, Page A12.)*

Earlier on Friday, he heard confession from a hand-picked group of Catholics representing the faithful from around the world in Saint Peter's Square.

The Pope was to hold a vigil that traditionally starts at 8 p.m. Saturday in Saint Peter's Square before thousands of faithful holding candles.

The Vatican is reported to have received requests for 25,000 tickets for the event.

The Pontiff is expected to leave Rome on Easter Monday for a rest in his country residence at Castel Gandolfo on the outskirts of the Italian capital.

He is expected to remain there until Wednesday, when he traditionally holds a general audience for the faithful at the Vatican.

Less than three weeks after Easter, he is scheduled to resume traveling, with visits to Greece, Syria and Malta on May 4-9, following in the footsteps of Saint Paul, one of the apostles considered the first great Christian missionary.

The Pope is also due to make a trip to the Ukraine on June 23-27.

During his meeting with young Romans last week, he said he was looking forward to attending next year's Catholic youth festival in Toronto, Canada. *Norman Bordadora, AFP*

TORCHLIGHT procession on Good Friday in Rome is led by Pope John Paul II. AP

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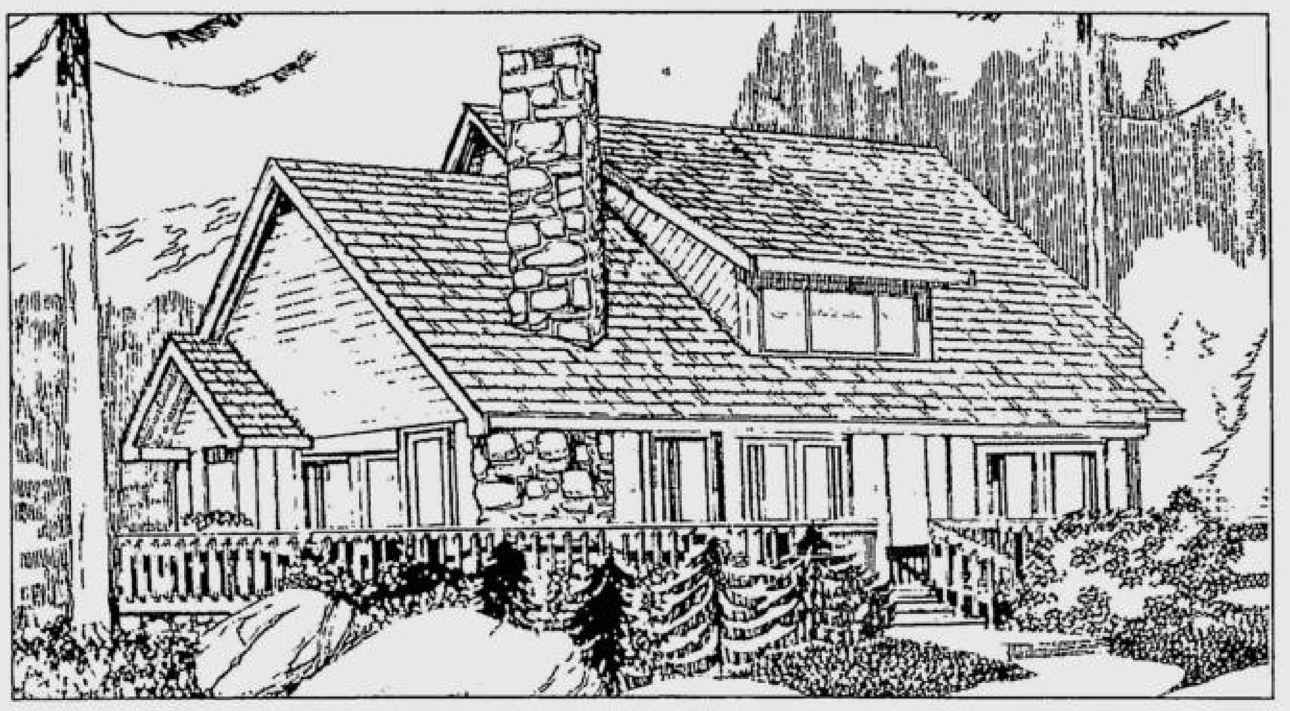

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Schilling heads for home

(From page A1)

US Embassy Charge d' Affaires Michael Malinowski gave Ms Macapagal full credit for the rescue.

"The United States is grateful," he said at the press conference.

"The Philippines deserves full credit . . .we are pleased that (the Philippines) refused to give in to the terms and demands of (a terrorist group)," he added.

Military officials stressed that the government had always considered Schilling a genuine hostage, although defense officials under the Estrada administration had said otherwise.

But asked if they suspected Schilling of conniving with the Abu Sayyaf, General Villanueva said they had treated the American as an "unwilling hostage."

"If we had assumed otherwise, we would not have conducted the military operations" to rescue him, the military chief said.

Surrender or die

Ms Macapagal again called on the kidnappers to surrender or be "pulverized."

"You better give up and surrender. I will pulverize you," she said, addressing the "remaining bandits."

In a two-minute interview in Davao City, she reiterated her ultimatum. "*Kung mahal nyo ang inyong buhay mag-surrender na kayo* (If you love your lives, surrender)," she said.

She also directed the military to continue its operations in Sulu and Basilan, ordering the troops to "seek and destroy the remnants of the Abu Sayyaf."

"They must be exorcised from our midst for they have no rightful place in our society," she said, branding them rapists, torturers and kidnappers.

"I will even shake hands with Abu Sabaya (if he concedes defeat), but if he does not surrender, he will be killed," she said.

The President congratulated the different branches of the Armed Forces for their joint efforts and teamwork in launching the rescue operation.

The AFP joint Task Force Comet combines elements of the Philippine Army, Philippine Navy, the Marines and the Air Force.

Ms Macapagal congratulated task force commander Brig. Gen. Romeo Dominguez and ground troops led by Marine Col. Renato Miranda and Col. Romeo Tolentino on the rescue.

Ms Macapagal also cited civilian support that helped lead to Schilling's freedom, commending Lu'uk Mayor Abdurahman Arbison for tipping off the military about the movements of the Abu Sayyaf.

The President said Schilling's rescue came at an "auspicious" time of "deep reflection."

She said she was happy for the people of Mindanao, citing signs pointing to a meaningful and lasting peace.

"Already, I can see the light at the end of the tunnel," she said.

Only Ullah left

When he got off a military C-130 transport plane in Manila yesterday, Schilling was whisked away by US Embassy staff, who refused to allow reporters to interview him.

He had a fresh haircut and had trimmed the beard grown during his captivity. Anderson said Schilling had "lots of bites, but he is in good health." *(See related story on Page A1.)*

Schilling and a Filipino resort worker, Roland Ullah, had been the only remaining hostages from the Abu Sayyaf's kidnapping spree last year in which dozens of foreigners and locals were taken captive and released only after huge ransoms were paid.

There is still little news on the fate of Ullah, and government forces continue to search the hinterlands of Sulu for the lone remaining hostage.

"Our main focus now is to get the remaining hostage Roland Ullah," said Col. Jovenal Narcise, spokesperson of Task Force Comet.

"It will only be a matter of time before we can catch this group and finally put to an end to its reign of terror," he said.

In Pagadian City, Dominguez, the head of Task Force Comet, told the INQUIRER that there was a "sudden twist of events following the rescue of Schilling."

"They (Abu Sayyaf members) have less cards now and they are uncertain of their security," he said.

Seven Abu Sayyaf members have been killed and 13 others captured since President Macapagal's declaration of an "all-out war," Dominguez said. But seven of the 13 turned out to be farmers and were set free, he added.

He said Task Force Comet had recovered some 40 assorted high-caliber firearms, setting back the enemy tactically.

Surrender feelers

After Schilling's rescue, Dominguez said the military received surrender feelers from Abu Sayyaf followers in at least four areas in Sulu.

Schilling was rescued by elements of the 2nd Marine Brigade under Col. Renato Miranda and the Philippine National Police in Lu'uk on Thursday afternoon, after an hour-long firefight in Kanindug, an area filled with mangroves near the northeast coast of the island.

Although Lt. Gen. Gregorio Camiling, Southern Command chief, attributed the success of the rescue to "very long and extensive planning," he acknowledged that it was possible only with the "support and cooperation of the people of Jolo."

The civilian support is the difference between Task Force Comet and its predecessor, Task Force Trident, according to Sulu watchers.

There is also a marked difference in the strategy of the two composite task forces.

While Trident launched its offensive last Sept. 16 with howitzers, helicopter gunships, bomber planes and a naval blockade that virtually isolated the island, the ongoing operation is more humane, say Sulu residents.

Paradise lost

In his first conference as commanding general of the task force, Dominguez said his priority was the return to normalcy in Jolo, "the earlier, the better."

The Abu Sayyaf, as a kidnap-for-ransom group, has for several years harassed professionals and Chinese businessmen in Sulu with frequent hold-ups, extortion, kidnappings, and even murders and grenade explosions in public places.

"This is a paradise. It is a paradise lost; we have to regain it," Dominguez told the men of Task Force Comet.

Comet was formed to carry out President Macapagal's directive to "annihilate" the Abu Sayyaf after Abu Sabaya (Real name: Abu Ahmad Salayuddin) threatened to behead Schilling as a "birthday gift" to the President on April 5.

Fresh troops

Fresh troops have been arriving in Jolo almost daily for the past week. Truckloads of soldiers, armored personnel carriers and Army jeeps have been seen going in the direction of Patikul and Talipao, the known strongholds of the Abu Sayyaf.

Dominguez said there are an estimated 600 Abu Sayyaf members in Sulu and about 400 in Basilan.

He said that the residents appear to favor the decision to crush the Abu Sayyaf. "The feedback voluntarily given to the soldiers is good," he said.

"That means the people of Jolo believe that the President made the right decision," he said. ***With reports from Noralyn Mustafa , Jonathan F. Ma, Jowel F. Canuday, Hernan P. de la Cruz, PDI Mindanao Bureau; AP, AFP, Reuters***

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Civilians were key to Schilling rescue

BY FRANK CIMATU
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—Mayor Abdurahman Arbison of Lu'uk town in Sulu said the biggest mistake the Abu Sayyaf group of Khaddafy Janjalani made last week was to hide a hostage in his town.

Since 25 armed men set foot on a secluded Lu'uk mangrove, civilians there had been feeding the military the location of a "dark foreigner" in their midst, said 1st Lt. Armando Custodio, leader of the reconnaissance team which eventually rescued American Jeffrey Schilling on Maundy Thursday.

"The people of Sulu had been voluntarily giving us information," said the Southern Command chief, Lt. Gen. Gregorio Camiling, who escorted Schilling to President Macapagal-Arroyo at the Presidential Mansion here on Good Friday.

The mayor said he got the information on Schilling's presence in his town from a civilian and passed it on to the Southern Command.

Arbison, along with Custodio, was introduced by Ms Macapagal to the media as one of the "real heroes" of the rescue effort.

Ms Macapagal also greeted Custodio, a member of Philippine Military Academy Class 1994, at the doorstep of the Mansion's guesthouse, with a disarming phrase: "So you are the conqueror."

Key to the rescue

But Custodio said civilians like Arbison were the key to Schilling's rescue.

He said the tip gave him a tactical advantage over 25 armed men who were guarding a small house deep in the mangrove area of Barangay Karmindas in Lu'uk.

Custodio said that after several minor skirmishes on Thursday, his team encountered "from five to 25 men" protecting the mangrove area.

After a firefight that lasted 15 minutes, the Abu Sayyaf bandits scrambled out of sight and fled, abandoning Schilling in the process.

It was Schilling who approached his rescuers, introducing himself to a Sulu police officer, SPO3 Hajiri Timbang, before he was finally secured by Custodio's reconnaissance team.

"The fighting took 15 minutes, and I was only told later by the police there about a foreigner inside a house in the village. That was the only time I encountered Schilling," Custodio, a member of PMA Class 1994, told the INQUIRER.

He said the operations were launched at noon on Maundy Thursday after Task Force Comet received information about Schilling's presence there.

The task force was organized to replace Task Force Trident.

Custodio said the group, composed of 21 Army soldiers and 11 Sulu policemen, engaged the bandits in a firefight in Barangay Karmindas in Lu'uk town at about 2 p.m. Thursday.

Custodio said Schilling himself approached his rescuers after his captors "scrambled" away.

Confused

"They abandoned Schilling, maybe out of confusion," Custodio said. He said none of the Abu Sayyaf captors resembled Abu Sayyaf leader Khaddafy Janjalani

No casualties were reported in the firefight but the task force commander, Col. Romeo Miranda, said traces of blood were found at the scene.

Schilling approached SPO3 Timbang who crept close to the house as soon as the firing stopped, Custodio said.

Schilling told reporters here that he managed to free himself from his shackles when the firing started.

Custodio said Schilling appeared calm despite threats of his beheading.

Custodio said the Abu Sayyaf captors also threatened Schilling himself, "but he is fine now. He actually thanked me personally last night (Maundy Thursday)"

Camiling said they had two tips on Schilling. The first tip indicated that Schilling was in Talipao, Sulu The second came from the mayor

"We thought the tip from Lu'uk was equally credible because it came from the mayor," said Miranda, who arrived in Sulu only two days before the rescue of Schilling.

Miranda said he was not certain if the government had offered a reward for information leading to Schilling's rescue.

"I do not need it anyway," Arbison said in Filipino.

A military report last October said that Sulu residents were uncooperative in the government campaign against the Abu Sayyaf.

Most peaceful in Sulu

When Brig. Gen. Emmanuel Teodosio, then head of the defunct Task Force Trident, called on Sulu mayors and barangay chiefs to volunteer information regarding Schilling's whereabouts, only two officials came.

Lu'uk (1995 pop: 31,107) is located 52 km from Jolo, the provincial capital. It boasts of being the most peaceful and progressive municipality in Sulu.

Last December, former President Joseph Estrada even visited Lu'uk and handed out government projects there.

Last month, Lu'uk residents staged a peace rally to protest the presence of the Abu Sayyaf.

Arbison said he had repeatedly led the police and civilian volunteers to thwart attempts by the Abu Sayyaf to gain foothold in his town during the early stages of the Sulu hostage crisis last September.

With Arbison's help, the military arrested 36 suspected Abu Sayyaf members in Pugad Manaol, Bulansi, also in Lu'uk, last October.

Also in October, rumors began circulating about how the military finally cornered Abu Sayyaf spokesman Abu Sabaya in Lu'uk.

Miranda said the military had been preparing the resurgence, not the death of the Abu Sayyaf.

"The people of Sulu are in dire poverty. It is highly likely that they (Abu Sayyaf) will return if their poverty is not resolved," Miranda said. ***With a report from Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

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Philippine Health Center
April 19-20, 2001

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

MESSAGE

My warmest greetings to the organizers and participants of the 1st National Convention on Environmental and Occupational Health.

To protect human health in the context of sustainable development is a fundamental objective of environmental and occupational health. We at the Department of Health strongly believe that the health and well-being of our families depend on a clean and healthy environment. This is true in the light of new technologies, substances and processes which are being introduced into the workplace without previous experience and information on their potential health and environmental impact.

Health and safety is crucial specially in cases where the health risk cannot be safely predicted. Chronic occupational diseases are largely "silent" epidemics which are often undiagnosed and unreported. The World Health Organization (WHO) has estimated that 40-50% of the world's population is exposed to hazardous conditions in the workplace. The lack of safe water supply and adequate sanitation accounts for as much as 80 percent of all diseases in developing countries. To date, only 5 to 10 percent of workers in developing countries have access to adequate occupational health services. More than one and a half billion people live in urban areas with dangerous levels of air pollution.

While the government seeks to improve levels of protection for our people, interactions between economic growth and health should be taken into consideration and incorporated into decision-making and planning processes. Obtaining such support requires effective information and education of several sectors and decision-makers and implies the need to raise awareness on the importance of occupational and environmental health. Governments, communities and individuals must continue to make decisions that promote health and the environment.

We at the Department will continue to address environmental and occupational health threats by forging a closer working relationship with other government agencies, industry and other sectors of the society.

The Department hopes that this convention will serve as an important fora in the exchange of information and expertise in the field of environmental and occupational health, and strengthen ties with partner agencies and groups in an atmosphere of cooperation and unity.

My best wishes to all of you and MABUHAY!

MANUEL M. DAYRIT, M.D., MSc
Secretary

Convention Objectives

Promote advocacy, disseminate information and provide an impetus for action in the implementation of environmental and occupational health policies, rules and regulations within the context of the health sector reform agenda and sustainable development.

•PROGRAM•

April 19, 2001

Chair (AM Session): Dr. Desiree M. Narvaez
Opening Ceremonies

8: 00-8: 30	Registration	CFEH staff
8:30-9:00	Invocation/Doxology	DOH Choir
	National Anthem	DOH Choir
	Welcome Address	Usec. Milagros L. Fernandez, DOH
	Acknowledgement of Participants	Dr. Mariquita J. Mantala, DOH
	Inspirational Message	Secretary Manuel M. Dayrit, DOH
	Keynote Message	Secretary Heherson Alvarez, DENR
9:00-9:15	Video Presentation	

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Session 1: Global and Local State of Environmental and Occupational Health

The first session will provide participants with insights on the global and local perspectives, issues and future directions on environmental and occupational health. Invited speakers who will discuss these topics will include Dr. Nicanor Perlas of CADI, Dr. Hisashi Ogawa of the World Health Organization of the Western Pacific Region, Prof. Elma Torres, Consultant and Dr. Benjamin Vilasa, Dean of the College of the Public Health, UP-Manila.

Session 2: Health sector reform agenda

The second session will discuss the current thrust of the Department as embodied under the Health Sector Reform Agenda and the National Objectives for Health. Focus will be mainly on the mission and vision of the Department as well as the core organizations and programmes involved with the implementation of environmental and occupational health. Health management staff namely Dr. Mario Villaverde, Dr. Mariquita Mantala, Dr. Paulyn Ubial and Dr. Desiree M. Narvaez will be on-hand to discuss the DOH re-engineered structure and system as it addresses pressing environmental and occupational health threats.

Session 3: How safe is our drinking water?

The third session will encompass topics on current issues involved in safe drinking water which includes refilling stations, epidemiology of water borne diseases and safe water in the rural areas. Renowned experts to discuss these issues will include Dr. Juan Lopez of the National Epidemiology Center-DOH, Engr. Bonifacio Magtibay of the Bureau of International Health Cooperation-DOH, Undersecretary Manuel Bonoan of the Department of Public Works and Highways and Dr. Jovito Deauna of the Water Quality Association of the Philippines.

Session 4: Air quality Management

The fourth and last session for the day will tackle the ranging issue on air pollution. Topics on issues surrounding the implementation of the Clean Air Act, health effects of air pollution and status or motor vehicle emission testing programme of the Department of Transportation and Communication will also be presented. This will also highlight a model programme on the ordinance passed by the local government unit of Valenzuela on the prohibition of smoking in public places. Invited speakers for the session will include Prof. Victorio Molina of the UP-College of Public Health, Dr. Peter Anthony Abaya of the Environmental Management Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Hon. Emmmanuel Carlos of the City of Valenzuela and Gen. Edgardo Abenina of the Department of Transportation and Communciations.

Session 5: Solid Waste Management

The fifth session will discuss the controversial topic on solid and hospital waste management. Experts will delve into the health issues as well as current solid & ecological waste management practices including alterriative hospital waste management technology in the light of the implementation of the Clean Air Act. Health and environment experts invited include Prof. Victor Sabandeja of the UP-College of Public Health, Ms. Elsie Encarnacion of the Metro Manila Development Authority, renowned ecologist, Ms. Sonia Mendoza of the Mother Earth Foundation and Prof. Gerry Parco of the National Engineering Center of UP-Diliman.

Session 6: Toxic and Hazardous Chemicals

The sixth session will focus on the impact of chemicals in specific high risk populations like women and children. Health experts on toxicology from the UP-National Poisons Control and Information Service like Dr. Erle Castillo will provide an overview of the health impact of toxic and hazardous chemicals, Dr. Irma Makalinao will expound on the issues involved in the pediatric environmental health by comparing the effects of the exposure of chemicals in adults and children while Dr. Lynn Panganiban will tackle issues involving women and chemicals. Another renowned environmentalist Dr. Romeo Quijano will provide us with important insights on persistent organic pollutants.

Session 7: Occupational Health

Session seven will give an overview on workplace and worker's health related initiatives and programmes. Health experts like Dr. Eric Tayag will discuss lifestyle related diseases in the workplace, Dr. Dulce Gust will provide a backgrounder on the efforts of the government to initiate a surveillance and monitoring program on Stevens Johnson Syndrome which if we recall afflicted some of the Filipino overseas workers in Taiwan in the late '90s. Dr. Dina Diaz an expert on lung diseases will provide an overview on the health effects of pollution at the workplace while Ms. Sylvia Valdez from the Labor Department will give an oversight on the program on the work initiative for safety and health.

Session 8: Special Topics

A separate forum on emerging and current issues of the day focusing on Red Tide will be discussed by Ms. Leza Acorda of the National Red Tide Task Force while an overview on the issue of Genetically Modified Foods will be presented by Dr. Evelyn Mae Mendoza of the UP-Los Banos. The role of management in ensuring the health and environment will be outlined under the session on Environmental Health Impact Assessment which will be tackled by Dr. Joselito Gapas of Shell and Environmental Management Systems by Ms. Amihan Gorospe of the Department of Trade and industry. Mr. Michael Rockley from the United States will provide a glimpse of the NSF certification procedures.

At the end of the 2-day convention, each sector will present a resolution which will entail priority action by government agencies, non-government organizations and other stakeholders to promote environmental and occupational health.

Organizing Committee

Chairperson:	*Dr. Desiree M. Narvaez*
Co-Chair:	*Engr. Ana Trinidad Francisco-Rivera*
Vice-Chair:	*Dr. Ma. Cristina Galang* *Engr. Elmer Benedictos*
Scientific Programme:	*Dr. Ma. Cristina Galang* *Dr. Robert Sadang* *Engr. Joselito Riego de Dios*
Physical Arrangements:	*Engr. Danilo de Guzman* *Engr. Luis Cruz* *Engr. Elmer Benedictos*
Ways and Means:	*Dr. Desiree M. Narvaez* *Engr. Ana Trinidad Francisco-Rivera* *Ms. Trinidad Damasco*
Invitation/Programme:	*Engr. Rene Timbang* *Engr. Ana Trinidad Francisco-Rivera*
Documentation/Resolution:	*Dr. Roberto Sadang* *Engr. Joselito Riego de Dios*
Food:	*Engr. Rene Timbang* *Engr. Luis Cruz*
Plaques/Awards:	*Engr. Danilo de Guzman* *Engr. Elmer Benedictos*

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Dr. Mariquita J. Mantala
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Captivity diet lops 95 lbs off bulky hostage

(From page A1)

hospital in Fort del Pilar here Friday.

"He's physically fit and he's reached his ideal weight now," said an official, adding that the weight loss "was due to a combination of diet and walking through the forests."

Lt. Col. Renato Ronas, commanding officer of the PMA Station Hospital, said Schilling had no major bruises or injuries, and bore only marks from insect bites on his arms and rope marks on his wrists. He added that Schilling was also suffering from a skin allergy.

Immediately after the rescued hostage was presented to the President and the media at the courtyard of the Mansion's guesthouse here on Good Friday, Schilling was escorted to a waiting ambulance and taken to the PMA to rest.

Before he met with the President, Schilling took a two-hour long bath, said Marine 1st Lt. Armando Custodio, leader of the Marine reconnaissance unit who led the rescue operation.

A Muslim convert, Schilling had skipped the dinner hosted by the President for military officials and the rescuing team at Club Safari here on Friday.

"He slept for two hours (in his room at the PMA hospital). Then he ate supper. He ate food appropriate for Muslims. He ate half of a whole fried chicken. He was even asking for more," said Ronas.

He said Schilling only ate sandwiches for lunch on Friday before he was presented to the President.

Custodio said the American spent Thursday night in a military detachment in Lu'uk, Sulu, before boarding the plane that took him to Baguio the following day.

'Never in cahoots'

The haggard-looking US hostage dismissed suggestions he had colluded with his captors.

"I was never in cahoots with the Abu Sayyaf," Schilling said.

He said his kidnappers had occasionally forced him to carry a rifle to hoodwink villagers into believing that he was a foreign sympathizer.

"They gave me firearms to carry in order to deceive the civilians. They thought they could fool the civilians into thinking I was an Arab or Pakistani," he said, reacting to reports that he had been sighted carrying a gun alongside the Abu Sayyaf members.

He was responding to persistent suspicions that he had voluntarily let himself be captured because he is married to the cousin of Abu Sayyaf spokesperson Abu Sabaya and was kidnapped after walking into Sabaya's camp on Aug. 28 last year.

Phoning home

Air Force Col. Efren Daquil of the PMA said Schilling woke up at about 5:30 a.m. yesterday to prepare for his flight to Manila to meet with US Embassy officials.

He was wearing black pants and a white Reebok jacket over a black PMA shirt.

Sporting a new hair cut, Schilling stayed briefly inside the PMA ambulance at the Loakan Airport to wait for Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, who accompanied him to Manila.

The C-130 plane carrying Schilling took off from Loakan Airport around 8 a.m. yesterday.

Maj. Gen. Manuel Carranza Jr., PMA superintendent, said the American had expected on Friday to be home by Sunday.

"He called his mom in San Francisco from my cellular phone. He's telling her that he would be home by Sunday," Carranza said.

Schilling's mother, Carol Schilling, said in an interview with ABS-CBN television that she had spoken to her son and that "he sounded good and we're looking forward to seeing him."

"We expect him home possibly on Saturday," she said without elaborating. *With reports from AFP, Reuters*

SCHILLING with President Macapagal-Arroyo and US Embassy Chargé d'Affaires Michael Malinowski.

MALACANANG PHOTO

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Advanced Computer Application	16 hrs.	Apr 18-21,23-26 ,27- MAY2(1-5/5-9pm)	Apr.18-21,23-26 ,27- MAY2 (9-1/5-9pm)	Apr.23-16, 30- May 3 (1-5pm)
Computer for kids Level 1(Ages 5-6) Level 2(Ages 7-9) Level 3(Ages 10-12)	8 hrs. 10 hrs. 12 hrs.	Apr.3-6,17-20(2-4) Apr.3-7,17-21(2-4) Apr.3-7,17-21(2-5)	Apr.17-20(10-12) Apr.17-21(10-12) Apr.17-21(1-3)	Apr.17-May10 ,4-21(10-2) Apr.17-May 3 ,2-14 (9-12) Apr.17-May 3 ,2-14 (1-4)
Visual Basic	16 hrs.			Apr 17-May10,15-Jun 7 (1-5pm)
Web Page Design	16 hrs.	Apr.17-20(1-5)		Apr.21-22, 28-29 (8-12)
Photoshop	8 hrs.	Apr 17-18,19-20,24-25 (1-5pm)	Apr 17-18,19-20,24-25 (9-1pm)	Apr.18-20, May 2- 4 (1-5pm)
PC. Troubleshooting & Maintenance	20hrs.	Apr.18-24,25-30 (1-5pm)	Apr.18-24,25-30 (9-1pm)	Apr 24-28 , 30-May 5(1-5pm)
Local Area Networking (LAN)	35 hrs.	Apr.19-28,30-May10 (1-5pm)	Apr.19-28,30-May 10 (9-1pm)	Apr 23-May 4, 7-18 (9-1pm)
Building Self-Confidence Level 1 (age 6-9) Level 2 (age 9-3)	35 hrs.	Apr 18-24,25-May 2 (Tue-Wed 9-1pm)	Apr 27-May 11 (Thu-Fri 9-1) Apr.27-May 11 (Thu-Fri 9-1)	Apr 27-May 11(8-10) May 9-30(8-10) Apr.16-May 7(T10-12) May 9-30(10-12)

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Jordan a marked man if he returns

His Airness shedding kilograms (pounds) at Chicago health clubs

JORDAN: It would be a chance to kind of go and try to get him. FILE PHOTO

NEW YORK—If Michael Jordan returns to the National Basketball Association, there's a 99.9 percent chance that every young whippersnapper in the league will be looking to knock a little of the tarnish off his legend.

At 38, Jordan would be a marked man among a new generation of players who were toddlers back when Jordan was pushing Magic Johnson and Larry Bird aside.

"The younger players have seen the Michael of old, and they want to go out there and say, 'Hey, we can attack him now,'" said Ray Allen of the Milwaukee Bucks. "With Mike, he's dogged all of us for so long. We came in and we were young and he gave it to every single one of us.

"I think with the younger guys being at the top of their games now, it'd be a chance to kind of go and try to get him."

The basketball world is abuzz over the possibility of a comeback next season by Jordan, the 12-time All-Star, six-time champion, 10-time scoring leader, five-time Most Valuable Player and one-time minor league baseball player (during his first retirement from 1993-95).

He re-retired in 1998 after a storybook ending to his last game when he hit his final shot to give the Chicago Bulls a title-clinching victory over the Utah Jazz in Game 6 of the NBA Finals.

The Jordan comeback stories, which first surfaced last month when Sports Illustrated reported he was "90 percent committed" to returning, gained additional credence last week when Abe Pollin, the majority owner of the Wizards, said he had a "gut feeling" that Jordan would return next season to play for Washington.

Mario Lemieux, a friend of Jordan's, also fueled the speculation by again saying that he was "sure" Jordan will return.

Jordan, a part owner and the president of basketball operations for the Wizards, has stubbornly clung to the statement he made the day he retired from the Bulls—that he was "99.9 percent sure" he won't play again.

But Jordan has been trying to shed several kilograms (pounds), working out at health clubs in Chicago and playing pickup games with working stiffs and ex-college players. He's also dropped by to practice with the Wizards, a team so downtrodden that one of its players, Jordan acquisition Tyrone Nesby, was arrested in the locker room after a game against the Pacers in Indiana last week. (The charges, stemming from a 1995 assault case, were dismissed the next day).

Jordan publicly insists that practicing with the Wizards was no big deal, but that's the same thing the Miami Heat said a month ago when Alonzo Mourning began full-scale workouts even though he was expected to be out all season with a kidney ailment. Two weeks later, Mourning returned to the team. *AP*

Complete results

Washington 113, Orlando 110; Cleveland 97, New Jersey 91; New York101, Atlanta 65; Indiana 113, Boston 108 (OT); Toronto 94, Miami 82; Utah 94, Chicago 83; Dallas 101, Sacramento 97; Denver 108, Golden State 92; Phoenix 109, Seattle 100; Houston 109, Portland 103; LA Clippers 111, Minnesota 105. *Reuters*

For Sebastian, Easter Sunday is holiest day

By Roy Luarca

JAIME Sebastian, the most bemedalled Filipino weightlifter in both the SEA and Asian Games from 1979 to 1991, had a brush with death some two years ago. The "trip to the other life" sends shivers down his spine each time Holy Week comes along, especially on Easter Sunday.

In the afternoon of Jan. 25, 1999, Sebastian and his fellow soldiers had a boodle fight (eating together using bare hands) at their barracks at Villamor Air Base.

After the contest, Sebastian felt shortness of breath and headed for the door. He collapsed before he could touch the door knob.

Then, he had a dream.

He saw a light and heard next a male voice asking him to come in. He tried to "come in" but couldn't.

Suddenly, Sebastian's late mother appeared and asked him why he was there.

"*Bakit nandito ka? Bumalik ka sa lupa* (Why are you here? Go back to Earth)," his mother told him. In a flash, she was gone.

The next thing Sebastian knew, he was hovering over his bloated body. He tried to enter it but failed.

Sebastian next saw his wife, a devotee of the Lourdes at Clark. She was going to take him there on a tricycle. But as he was about to board it, the tricycle's rear tire caught his toe.

The "accident" sent him back to earth. With his shout of "*Aray* (Ouch!)," he regained consciousness after being comatose for 25 days at the Makati Medical Center.

The "resurrection" happened on Feb. 19, 1999.

From his peak weight of 330 pounds before he collapsed on Jan. 25, 1999, Sebastian had shrunk to 198 pounds.

Before he regained consciousness, doctors had warned of the inevitability of death. Sebastian beat the deadline by three hours.

Since that day when he rose from the dead, Sebastian had discarded his famous daily diet that made him a celebrity of sorts for almost 19 years: 24 eggs, 2 chickens and a liter of milk.

Now 53, Sebastian admits the fact that the record 22 gold medals in 7 SEA Games and 3 Asian Games he won will not make him a superman forever.

Vicario upsets Hingis

HINGIS

AMELIA ISLAND, Florida—Unable to hide her frustration, Martina Hingis of Switzerland bounced her racket off the spongy, green clay. She rolled her eyes. She slammed a ball into the ground, popping it onto the other side of the court.

For the first time in five years, the world's top player felt what it's like to be on the wrong side of an Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario hot streak.

The seventh-seeded clay-court specialist from Spain pulled a stunner Friday, defeating top-seeded Hingis 6-2, 6-4 at the Bausch & Lomb Championships for just her second victory in 17 tries against Hingis.

"As I say, every match is different," Sanchez-Vicario said. "I try not to put it in my mind at all. I was just trying to think about today's match, be focused and do the right thing. Obviously, you have to play really well to beat her."

A winner at the Porto Ladies Open last week in Portugal, Sanchez-Vicario advanced to the semifinals to play sixth-seeded Amelie Mauresmo of France on Saturday. Sanchez-Vicario is seeking her first title at Amelia since 1994.

Fourth-seeded Amanda Coetzer of South Africa defeated 10th-seeded American Meghann Shaughnessy 6-3, 6-3 to earn a spot in the other semifinal. It was Shaughnessy's 22nd birthday. On Thursday, Coetzer eliminated Jelena Dokic of Australia on her 18th birthday.

"I'm not sorry about it," Coetzer said. "I guess it's unfortunate for them. It's not nice to lose on your birthday. It's happened to me before."

The final semifinal slot went to Russian Nadia Petrova, a 4-6, 6-3, 6-0 winner over Silvia Farina Elia of Italy in a pairing of unseeded players. *AP*

Sloan: No accolades, just victories

SLOAN

SALT LAKE CITY—So what if Jerry Sloan has never been the NBA coach of the year? He doesn't need sympathy or want the award as some kind of lifetime achievement pat-on-the-back.

"There are 29 coaches in the league and I might be the 30th best. I really don't care," Sloan said.

Yet it's stunning in some respects that the coach of the Utah Jazz has never won the award, despite building one of the most consistent teams and accomplished resumes in the business.

Sloan has won five Midwest Division titles and led his team to the NBA Finals twice. This season, the Jazz are going to the playoffs for the 13th time in his 13 years as coach.

Take away the lockout-shortened season in 1998-99, and the Jazz have averaged 54.5 wins each year under Sloan. They're on pace to reach that figure again this season.

But if you think Sloan—or his players, for that matter—pursue individual accomplishments, then you don't know the Jazz.

"I don't think it's what basketball is about," Sloan said. "Basketball from my standpoint is being involved in the game and trying to deal with players, not trying to become coach of the year."

Sloan is a tell-it-like-it-is coach, and his players feel those outspoken tendencies have hurt him in balloting.

"He wouldn't make a good politician," said Karl Malone, Utah's top scorer. "He doesn't tell everybody what they want to hear. Consistency doesn't really mean a whole lot in this league anymore for those kind of awards."

Sloan has always taken the hard-nosed approach.

Playing for the Chicago Bulls during the 1960s and 70s, he was a first-team selection four times on the NBA's All-Defensive Team. His No. 4 jersey was retired by the Bulls in 1978, six years before Michael Jordan arrived.

In a league of hip-hop players and highlight-reel slam dunks, Sloan is unspectacular and perhaps overlooked. Yet Utah's success is anything but ordinary. *AP*

Nomo-mania grips Boston

BOSTON—Nomo-mania is back, 5,000 kilometers (3,000 miles) from its birthplace and years removed from its heyday.

Red Sox fans wave placards with Japanese characters. The object of their adulation got the biggest ovation at Boston's home opener—bigger than Pedro Martinez.

Even Orioles fans cheered as Hideo Nomo closed in on a no-hitter in Baltimore. The only break in his calm exterior was a smile after he gave them what they wanted.

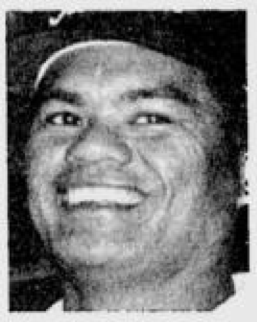
"If that's as emotional as he gets, it's probably all we're going to see," said Jason Varitek, who caught the no-hitter, the second of Nomo's career. "That's pretty much as big as it's going to get."

Through all the hoopla that began in 1995, when he joined Los Angeles as the first Japanese player in the major leagues, Nomo stayed cool and seemed somewhat tired of all the attention.

"The press followed him around. It was Jordanlike. It was incredible," Boston pitching coach Joe Kerrigan said.

The fever hasn't reached that point and Nomo doesn't seem affected by it. After his 3-0 no-hit victory in his Red Sox debut April 4, he answered questions with a serious face and bland comments.

Miñoza bounces back; Delasin in, Rosales cut



MINOZA

FRANKIE Miñoza put on an eagle-par-birdie-par finish to a five-under-par 67 yesterday and leapfrogged to a share of eighth place heading into the final round of the $806,000 Tsuruya Open at the Sports Shinko Country Club Yamanohara course in Kawanishi, Japan.

In Los Angeles, Dorothy Joy Delasin hobbled home with a 74 and dropped to 19th place after the penultimate round of the $800,000 Office Depot tournament. Jenny Rosales, however, missed the cut.

Starting the day in 41st place after struggling with a 74 in Round 2, Miñoza turned in one of the day's best scores for a 54-hole aggregate of 210, six under par, that put the Filipino star seven behind leader Masayuki Kawamura of Japan but only three behind the second running Todd Hamilton of the United States.

Kawamura shot a 72 for 203 while Hamilton carded a 70 for 207.

Miñoza, enjoying his best start in years as he currently stands third in the 2001 Japan Tour money list, torched the front nine with three birdies in a four-hole stretch from the sixth before lapsing with his only bogey for the day on the 11th.

Delasin, already earning $90,892 this year, took an early double-bogey on the third hole and two more bogeys on the fifth and ninth against a birdie on the sixth made up a wild front nine. She birdied the 11th then parred the remaining holes.

Delasin was a far 11 strokes behind the pacesetting American Pat Hurst who is on course to ending the foreign domination of the 2001 LPGA Tour.

Hurst had a second straight 67 for 134 and a three-shot lead over Liselotte Neumann.

Rosales, shooting a respectable 72 in the first round, soared to a 78 and failed to qualify for the final round like Korean ace Se Ri Pak who joined her at 150, just a stroke of the cut-off score of 149.

Jong Arcano

Cantada to coach Thai-bound team

EIGHTEEN of the country's leading players are leaving for Thailand today to compete in the Asia Pacific Junior Open 2001 slated for this week. Edgardo "Tito Boy" Cantada, president of the Philippine Junior Golf Federation, is heading the delegation while his son Gerard, fresh from a rigid training course on coaching in California, is the team coach.

Among the veteran international campaigners seeking team and individual honors in the tournament are Jenz Tecson, Kevin Lachica and brothers Paolo and Frederick Garcia.

The tournament will be played from April 17-20 at the Rose Garden Country Resort, Golf Course and Culture Center in Sampran, Nakorn Phathom.

"We had a very strong field when we hosted the inaugural event last year at Wack Wack," said the elder Cantada yesterday. "And we expect another tough competition this year for all juniors in the region."

"The guys are ready," said Gerard, who arrived last Thursday from a coaching course stint in Palm Springs under top teaching pro Chris Walkey, a former certified instructor of the David Leadbetter Golf Academy.

Aside from the Philippines and Thailand, other junior and national associations from Australia, Malaysia, China, Guam, the United States, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Singapore, Hong Kong, Sarawak and South Korea are playing.

"The annual event is open to all junior golf associations and individuals. And it is free from politics," said Cantada, the tournament's founding president.

Casas pair tops Baguio jungolf

FELIX "Cassius" Casas and his son Felix Jr. teamed up for 56 to win the Class E division in lopsided fashion of the well-attended Jungolf parent-and-son tournament at the Baguio Country Club course recently.

The Casas pair prevailed by 10 strokes over Stanley and Joshua Uy in the side event to the Camp John Hay jungolf tournament where Lyndon Barril led the winners by ruling boys Class A in lopsided fashion.

The other winners in the parent-child tourney were Barril and his father Joe in Class A, Joseph Tambunting and son Justin in Class B, Nelson D and Tonlit Asistio in Class C and Tony and Miguel Arevalo in Class D.

Over at Camp John Hay, Barril sizzled with 64-69 to rout the Class A field.

Katrina Gonzalez took the girls Class A, Kim Chang Ho and Jayvee Agojo continued their domination of Class B, Tonton Asistio edged Matthew Manotoc for the boys Class C plum and Mabel Salivio was the girls Class C winner.

In the lower divisions, it was John Kier Abaon in boys Class D, Debbie de Villa in girls Class D, Joshua Uy in boys Class E and Angela de Villa in girls Class E.

The annual summer circuit of the Junior Golf Foundation of the Philippines resumes on April 16-18 with Manila Southwoods hosting the fourth leg.

In the most closely-fought division, Asistio carded 70-67 to beat Manotoc (72-66) by just a stroke with IG Gutierrez finishing a close third with a 73-66.

Kim made it three in a row this season by firing 71-67 to win by two over DJ Padilla and Judeson Eustaquio while Abaon was just as impressive with his 70-70, giving him a three-shot win over Steven Bolivar.

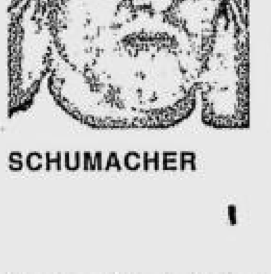
Arlan wins but Bariga loses in Cuba

HAVANA Cuba—Team Caltex Philippines split its first two bouts against two Cubans in the Roberto Balado Cup Thursday at the La Vereda Plasa here.

Bantamweight Arlan Lerio beat Frank Delgado, 4-2, while Joel Bariga lost to Juan Despaigne, 2-6.

Lerio plunges back into action Friday against another Cuban fighter. Also making his debut in this tournament being held in honor of the late heavyweight who won the gold in the Barcelona Olympics in 1992 is welterweight Reynaldo Galido, also against a Cuban counterpart. Victories by Lerio and Galido will assure Team Caltex of two bronze medals.

Schumacher leads Ferrari teammate by 0.27 sec



SCHUMACHER

IMOLA, Italy—World champion Michael Schumacher led Ferrari teammate Rubens Barrichello in Friday's free practice for the San Marino Formula One Grand Prix, boosting Ferrari fans hopes for a quick comeback following the recent loss in Brazil.

Schumacher, shooting for his third season victory in Sunday's race, thrilled thousands of fans as he edged his Brazilian teammate by 0.27 seconds, turning his fastest lap at the Enzo and Dino Ferrari circuit in one minute, 25.096 seconds.

Ralf Schumacher, the younger brother of the world champion, came in third in his Williams-BMW, 0.73 seconds behind.

Mika Hakkinen drove his McLaren-Mercedes in the fourth best time of the day, with an impressive gap of 1.24 seconds from the practice leader.

David Coulthard, who ended Michael Schumacher's winning streak at six by beating the German driver in the Brazilian GP two weeks ago, was a distant 11th, 2.03 seconds behind.

Schumacher, who added two wins in Australia and Malaysia this season to the four clinched in the closing races of last year's championship, was only 0.3 seconds off last year's fastest qualifying time posted by Hakkinen.

In Saturday's qualifying, Michael Schumacher can match Ayrton Senna's record of eight consecutive pole positions and boost Ferrari hopes for a third consecutive win in Imola.

Ferrari drivers were the quickest throughout the two-hour practice, with most teams improving times in the second part of the session, on a dry track. *AP*

RACING TIPS

AT SAN LAZARO BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Never Mine 2. Priceless 3. Lucky Swing 4. Dominant Dancer
Race 2—1. Top Quest 2. Deputy Royale 3. Vigor
Race 3—1. Free Bee 2. Dragon Strike 3. Brusko 4. Lorna
Race 4—1. Glorious Riches 2. Dressed to Impress 3. Premiere Stock 4. Choice for Change
Race 5—1. Nokaba 2. Supreme Prospect 3. Defense Minister 4. Lady Chip
Race 6—1. Project Genesis 2. Gifted Guest 3. Dynamite Miss
Race 7—1. Filthy Rich 2. Kontra Todo 3. Change for Keeps 4. Caton
Race 8—1. Prince of Africa 2. Maid of Kalibo 3. Santa Fe
Race 9—1. Darth Vader 2. Perfect Gift 3. Ang Seaman 4. Ableskiver
Race 10—1. Jackpot Baby 2. Mrs. Big 3. Heir Apparent 4. Half Moon Princess
Race 11—1. Test Run 2. Magic Fingers 3. Hingis 4. Lucky Gambit
Race 12—1. Full Blast 2. Knows Love 3. Cherish Emblem 4. Cristel Jay
Race 13—1. Speed Master 2. Lord of All 3. Master Ijahy 4. Legend of Gaia
Race 14—1. Make Your Mark 2. Lovely Luigi 3. Pep Up 4. Magnicolo

Davadilla leads bikathon

CROWD favorites Warren Davadilla, Bernard Luzon and Arnet Quirimit led the pack of qualifiers in the recent Philippine Cycling Challenge held in Subic. SMBA Chair Tong Payumo fired the starting gun for the month-long bikathon covering 800 kilometers and reaching as far as Dagupan City. It will end on May 6.

Sunday SPORTS
AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ▨ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

Lozada swim lessons

THE BERT Lozada Swimming Program will be held in 13 venues this summer—Manila, Makati, Pasig, Quezon City, Alabang, Las Piñas, Parañaque, Cavite, Laguna, Taytay, Tarlac, Bulacan and Bacolod. Applicants as young as 6 months old will be accepted. Call 563-55-32 or 564-46-48 for more details.

CHESS PRODIGY

Caoili threatens to relinquish citizenship

CAOILI (left) with National Open champion Eugene Torre and another chess prodigy, Sander Severino.

BY DENNIS U. EROA

CLAIMING she was tired of receiving false promises, chess phenomenon Arianne Caoili has threatened to relinquish her Filipino citizenship if only to fulfill her dream of becoming a Grandmaster.

"Nice words, nice promises. I need a good coach. My Mommy and I are tired of begging for money. The only solution is changing the national colors. I shall leave. I do not care where to," said the 14-year-old Caoili, the country's newest International Master.

Caoili aired her sentiments in an interview with a European journalist, Johan Zwanepol.

The story was printed on April 3 in Delo, Slovenia's largest daily.

Earlier, Caoili had emerged best female finisher in the highly competitive Bled, Slovenia, chess festival.

Caoili's impressive performance had merited huge attention from the Slovenian press and TV.

Boris Kutin, Fide European president, had also spoken glowingly of Caoili's achievements in interviews with the European press.

"Clearly, this young girl will become a Grandmaster very soon if only she will get the funding," Kutin was quoted as saying.

According to the article, some countries had already signified their interest in fielding Caoili to different competitions.

"But we have refused because we wanted to remain loyal to the Philippines. But we are now tired and can no longer sacrifice. Nobody is providing us with financial assistance. Our family has suffered enough," said Annette, Arianne's Australian mother.

Arnold, Arianne's Filipino father, told the INQUIRER yesterday that his request for help from Malacañang through the Philippine Sports Commission had repeatedly fallen on deaf ears.

"GM Silvino Garcia, president of the Cuban Chess Federation, has invited Arianne to compete in the XXXVI Capablanca Memorial International Chess tournament slated from May 3 to May 21 at Havana," said Arnold. "We need money to be able to compete there."

Arnold said Arianne and Annette, who are now in Frankfurt, Germany, need at least $6,000 in order to compete in the prestigious tournament where Arianne has a strong chance of earning her first GM norm.

Arnold said his daughter is determined to get her first GM norm in the Capablanca event.

"Arianne nearly won her first GM norm in Bled," said Arnold.

The elder Caoili admitted that they had already received P1.02 million from 1996 to 1998 from the office of then President Ramos.

"The amount constituted 60 per cent of what we spent to finance Arianne's many campaigns. Now, it's 2001 and it is obvious that Arianne's bid for chess supremacy has to shift to full gear."

Dentist, banker win

DENTIST Jenny Mayor regained the top spot in the Harmony section at the halfway mark of the 2001 Philippine Executive Active Chess Express or PEACE 2001, while Cyrus Atienza of Land Bank has a commanding 24-point lead in the Serenity section.

Mayor paces the elite pack with 96 points going into the seventh leg on April 28 at Land Bank's Multi-Purpose Hall along Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City.

PEACE 2001 is being sponsored by DNS Company and organized by the Active Chess Center of Asia (Acca) in cooperation with Belgosa Media Systems, Land Bank, Omni Business Center, Travel Café and Topmost Engineering.

WIZ YOUR WAY TO BASKETBALL

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For more inquiries,
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PBA knockout games on

Games Today
Makati Coliseum
4:15 p.m.—Shell vs Mobiline
6:30 p.m.—Purefoods vs Alaska

SHELL Velocity and Purefoods meet separate opponents today needing a win each to enter the semifinals of the PBA All Filipino Cup at the Makati Coliseum.

The Turbochargers mix it up with the Mobiline Phone Pals while the Hotdogs battle the Alaska Aces.

"We know how Alaska can get motivated during crucial games such as this one," said Purefoods coach Eric Altamirano. "So we won't be taking chances against them."

Should Mobiline and Alaska win, the rubber matches are set for Friday.

The other pair pits San Miguel Beer against Batang Red Bull and Pop Cola against Barangay Ginebra.

Like the Turbochargers and Hotdogs, the Beermen and Panthers also enjoy twice-to-beat incentives.

Suicide move

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

EVERY move in chess is like a punch thrown by Muhammad Ali: Slashingly precise.

Remember the Fischer-Spassky World Chess Championship in 1972 in Reykjavik, Iceland?

That match had been likened to a 15-round fight between Muhammad Ali and Joe Frazier.

Spassky was almost unbeatable before the match began. But then, Fischer the challenger came prepared with his slashingly precise moves and went on to unseat the Russian from his throne.

We have today in our midst a chess prodigy—14-year Arianne Caoili, who recently earned her International Master title (see banner story) in Bled, Slovenia.

But hey, will I see my heart bleed several days from now?

If it should happen at all, you're not human if you won't cry.

Listen, fellas.

Arianne, her father had said, might make a move that could slash the nation's wrist. If that should happen at all, the suicide move could only be triggered by government apathy. Indifference.

For, without a doubt, Arianne is a child prodigy in the mold of our Eugene Torre when El Eugenio was in his teens in the Sixties. Luckily for Eugene, he got the nourishment both from his father and a government that was then very supportive of athletes bent on making it big on the global stage.

The parallelism is there. History is being repeated.

Almost four decades ago, Eugene had his father beside him during Eugene's growing-up years, plus a government that took cognizance of the makings of a prodigy.

Some 40 years later, we have Arianne and her father, Arnold, teaming up on the world stage to unravel another budding star. This time, there's a minor revision in the script: Arianne's Australian mother, Annette, is also very actively involved in nourishing the career of the prodigy.

Seemingly, while the world is very much aware of this unfolding drama, Arianne's own kind has been turning in a deaf ear.

This has got to end. Only GMA can save the situation.

The hardest to produce, as I have always insisted, is a superstar. In Arianne's case, we have another superstar in the making and yet, what have we been doing, or done already? Have we stopped falling in love with prodigies? Or, to be really brutally frank about it, have we grown numb to the other beautiful side of life: Sports?

Say it ain't so, Gloria.

While this is the time for healing, for unifying the divided forces of the nation, this is also the time for reflecting.

Reflect on what would be the repercussions should we lose Arianne. It would be an irreparable loss, indeed, seeing an emerging star nipped in the bud.

For all her glory amid the radiance of her Edsa Dos miracle, I won't forgive GMA once we lose Arianne.

Peks man.

Mandarin offers karate lessons

MANDARIN Oriental's Health Club offers Aikido, karate and swimming classes this summer.

Traditional Aikido classes are offered from Monday to Wednesday, and on Fridays from 6 to 7:30 p.m., to sports enthusiasts 10 years old and above.

Swimming classes are offered on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 1 to 2:30 p.m.; 3 to 4:30 p.m. and 6 to 7:30 p.m. Registration fee for Aikido is P3,000 while the fee for swimming is P1,500 for 12 sessions.

Karate classes are also being offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Karate registration fee is P1,000. Interested parties may contact 750-8888, local 2330/31.

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

MOTOR SPORTS: F1 Qualifying – San Marino Grand Prix at 11 a.m. (r) on Star Sports

Motorsport Asia at 1 p.m. (r) on ESPN

SBK Superbike Magazine Highlights at 7 p.m. on ESPN

Race Day - San Marino Grand Prix at 7 p.m. on Star Sports

F1 - San Marino Grand Prix at 7:45 p.m. on Star Sports

GOLF: PGA Worldcom Classic, Third Round at 1 p.m. on Star Sports

LPGA City of Hope Classic, Final Round at 4 p.m. on ESPN

Golfglobe 2001 at 5 p.m. on Star Sports

BASKETBALL: NBA Inside Stuff at 7:30 a.m. (r) on Star Sports

This Week in the NBA at 11:30 p.m. on CNN

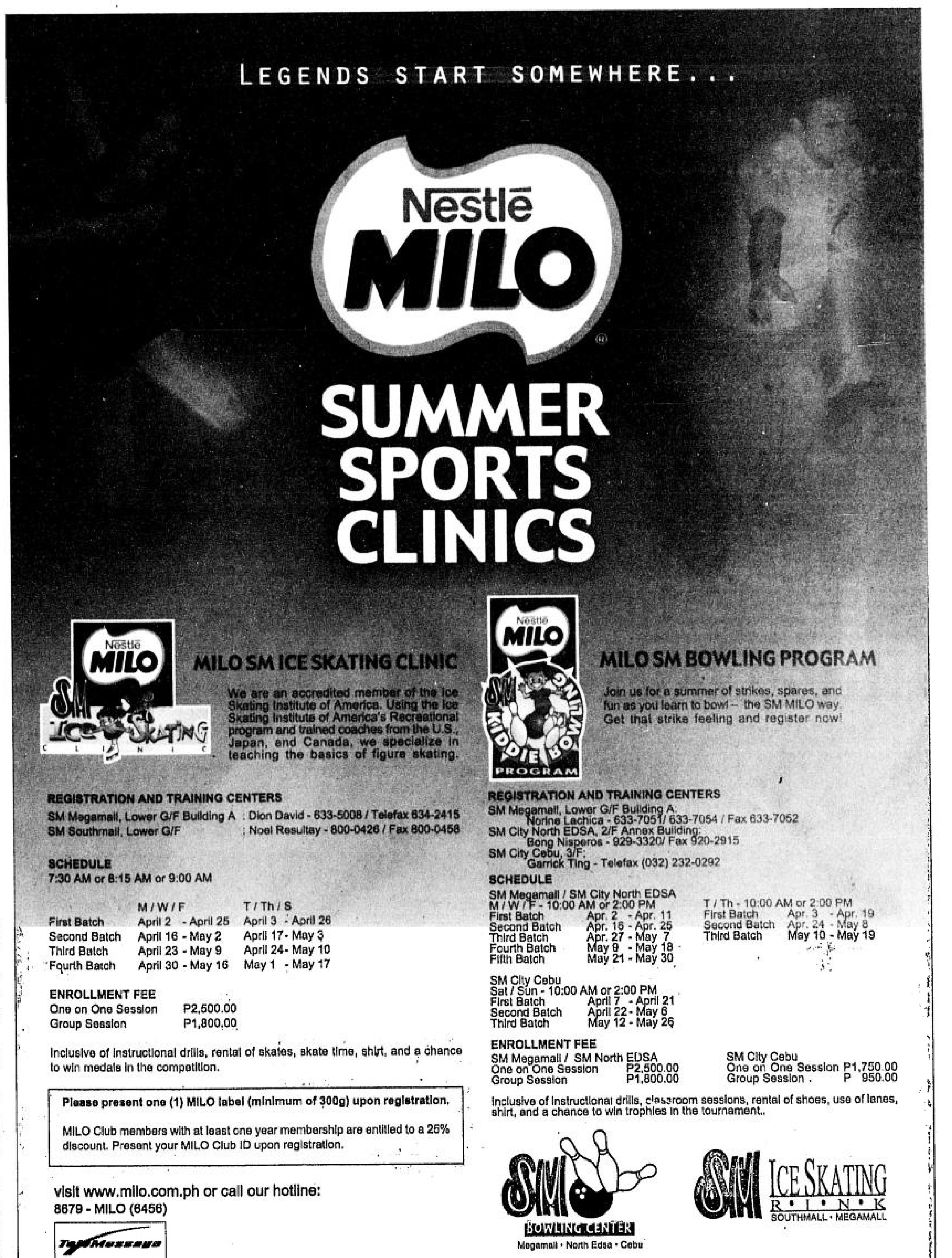
BOXING: Muhammad Ali - The Young Champion at 12 noon (r) on ESPN

Friday Night Fights at 10:30 p.m. on ESPN

TENNIS: WTA Ericsson Open, Finals at 5:30 p.m. on Star Sports

ATP Tennis Show at 8 p.m. on ESPN

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.



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	M / W / F	T / Th / S
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Second Batch	April 16 - May 2	April 17 - May 3
Third Batch	April 23 - May 9	April 24 - May 10
Fourth Batch	April 30 - May 16	May 1 - May 17

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SM City Cebu, 3/F:
Garrick Ting - Telefax (032) 232-0292

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Second Batch	Apr. 16 - Apr. 25	Second Batch	Apr. 24 - May 8
Third Batch	Apr. 27 - May 7	Third Batch	May 10 - May 19
Fourth Batch	May 9 - May 18		
Fifth Batch	May 21 - May 30		

SM City Cebu
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Second Batch	April 22 - May 6
Third Batch	May 12 - May 26

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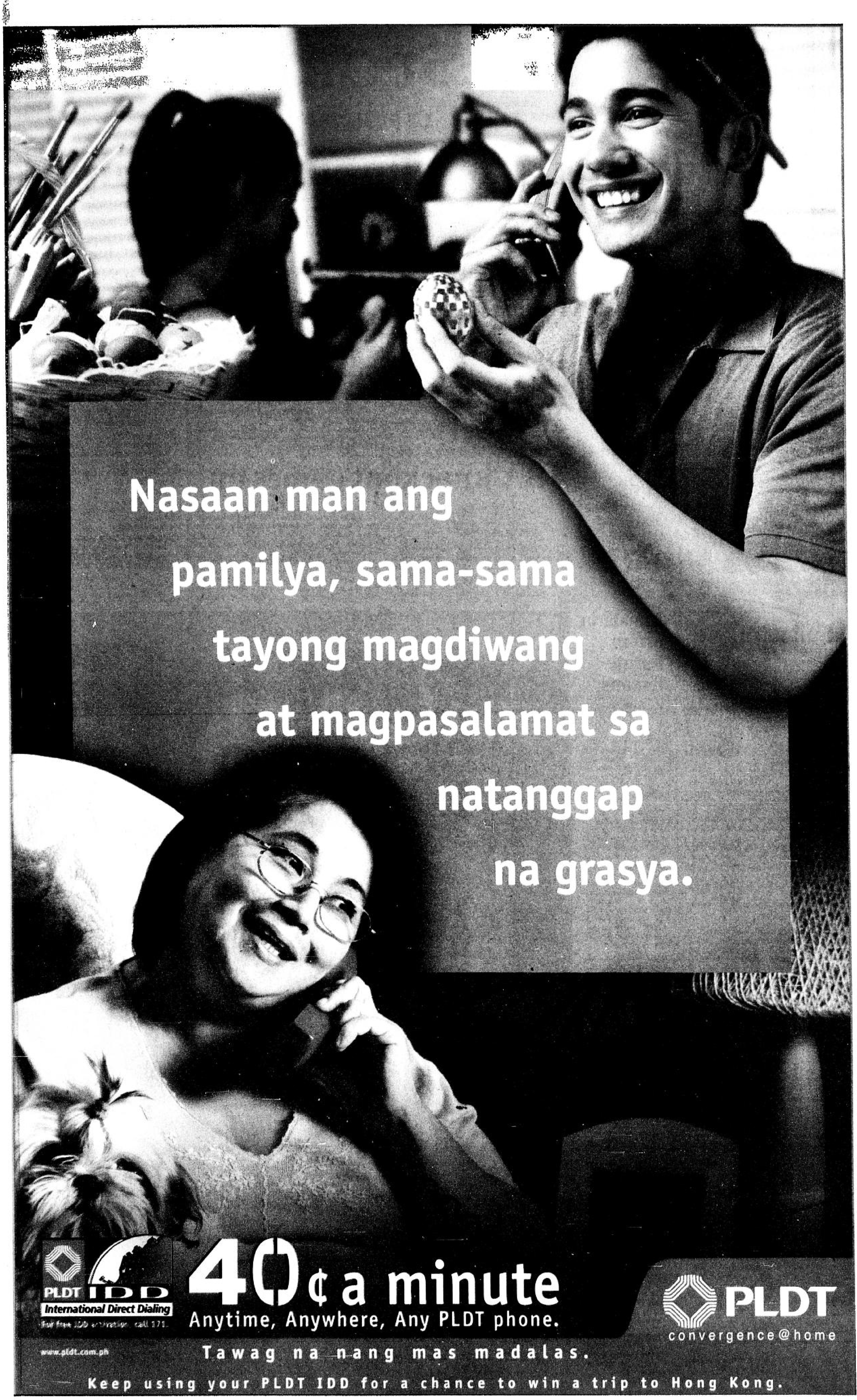
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METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Not just a fish story

POLICE yesterday arrested Roel Grande, of Camiling, Tarlac, in Makati City after Bayani Suarez complained that Grande had not paid the P2,000 worth of fish he borrowed from the complainant in January. Police eventually learned that Grande was the suspect in the killing of his father Dominador in Camiling last year. Grande said he killed his father for frequently beating him up when he was younger. *Alcuin Papa*

The cocks crowed more than thrice

INSTEAD of observing Maundy Thursday, residents of the BLISS government housing project on H. Santos Street in Makati City played an illegal cockfighting game. Police raided the compound, arrested 56 people and seized nine fighting cocks, seven of them dead, and about P1,000 in bets. As usual, the operator was not arrested. *Alcuin Papa*

2 go on shooting spree, kill 2

By Philip C. Tubeza and Alcuin Papa

WHILE Christians in the country were commemorating the death of Jesus Christ, a suspected addict on a motorcycle and a soldier went on a shooting rampage, killing two men and injuring two others, including a 13-year-old girl.

Staff Sgt. Albert Pante, of the Philippine Air Force's 300th LSG unit, had had a drink too many when he decided to empty his gun on a group of drinkers who insulted him and his dog in Pasay City, police said.

Police said Francisco Andes, 44, died from a gunshot wound in the stomach at the PAF General Hospital in Villamor Air Base.

Martin Andes, 49, of 90 Jasmine Street, Sitio Gitna, Caloocan City, was reported in critical condition at the San Juan de Dios Hospital, police said.

Francisco and Martin Andes and their friends were drinking at about 10 a.m. at the corner of 4th and 17th streets in Villamor Air Base, when a drunken Pante, with his pet dog, approached them, police said.

The drinkers told Pante not to come too close because his dog might attack them, said SPO2 Eduardo Cabria and PO3 Rodolfo Soquina of the Pasay Police Criminal Investigation Division.

That remark angered Pante, who went home, took his .45 cal. service firearm and returned to the scene, police said. Without warning, he began to fire indiscriminately at the group.

When the smoke cleared, the two Andes men were slumped on the ground bleeding, police said.

Police are hunting down Pante.

At the hour of the Crucifixion later that day, tricycle driver Bernardo L. Obniala, 39, was shot dead in Quezon City when he tried to avenge the wounding of his 13-year-old daughter, said SPO1 Ramon Fernandez of the Central Police District-Criminal Investigation Unit.

Police withheld the name of the suspect.

Though witnesses could not identify the gunman as he was wearing a helmet the whole time, police are optimistic they would be able to arrest him soon.

"We have good leads on the identity of this gunman," SPO1 Fernandez said. "We are now after him."

The suspect, riding an Enduro TD Scrambler motorcycle with no license plates, began firing his .45 pistol indiscriminately on residents of Alcantara Street, Banlat, Tandang Sora, Quezon City at about 3:45 p.m., police said.

The 13-year-old girl was hit in the right hand and in the lower right side of the back, police said.

"The bullets splintered (when it hit the ground), wounded the girl, while the crowd ran for cover," Fernandez told the INQUIRER.

Obniala, a resident of Alcantara Street, saw what happened to his daughter. He picked up an empty bottle and ran after the suspect who had driven off toward Tandang Sora, police said.

"But the suspect saw him coming," Fernandez said. "The gunman stopped and, at 15 meters, fired several shots at Obniala."

The suspect hit the man in the right waist, Fernandez added.

"Some of the residents tried to run after the gunman but he fired warning shots," Fernandez said.

The victims were taken to the Casaul General Hospital. The girl was quickly discharged but her father died at 5:18 p.m., police said. *With Jojo Arazas and Roy Jolito*

Convict finds resurrection inside prison

By Alcuin Papa

EXCEPT for three years when he was a Muslim, National Bilibid Prison inmate Bert Santos has been a devout Catholic, so devout that he has allowed himself to be nailed to the cross every Lent since 1991.

Santos, 50, has been in prison in Muntinlupa for the past 25 years, convicted, he claimed, of a crime he didn't commit.

Last Wednesday, when he was to be crucified again, he showed the Inquirer the scars on his hands and feet where nails were driven through in previous Lenten seasons. He sported his scars as if they were badges of piety, a VIP pass through the Pearly Gates.

But this year, there was a delay. The cross to which Santos was supposed to be affixed, a donation from a local politician, had not arrived.

Born a Catholic, Santos strayed from the straight and narrow and converted to Islam in 1996 after meeting a Muslim woman who was then visiting Santos' fellow inmate, movie actor Robin Padilla, who was in prison for illegal possession of firearms.

Santos said he immediately fell in love with Sara Lisa Cunaco, 30, of Jolo. She used to regularly-visit Padilla, who had just then converted to Islam. Sometimes she came with a group and other times she came alone.

Soon, it was Santos whom Cunaco was visiting, and it was then that he seriously considered

CONVICT FINDS/ A26

Two men collide head on while swimming; 1 dies

By Jerome Aning

NOBODY may have noticed that there were 13 of them when they went for a picnic and a swim in the greasy waters of the Manila Bay off the North Harbor in Tondo, Manila. Their superstitious elders could have warned them that the number and the day, Good Friday, made for a deadly combination.

Before the day was over, one of them, Michael Infante, 25, was dead, the victim of a freak accident. His friend Emil Salvador dived in the water and collided head on with Infante, who was already swimming.

The head blow killed Infante.

The accident happened around noon of Good Friday while Infante, Salvador and 11 of their friends were frolicking in the bay, according to investigators SPO3 Ernesto Jose Jr. and SPO2 Athos de Quiros of the city police homicide section.

Police said that although the Philippine Ports Authority has forbidden the public from swimming off the North Harbor, the group managed to get inside the pier compound by passing through a small flood tunnel.

TWO MEN/ A26

Robber fires gun, kills man sleeping two rooms away

By Jerome Aning

A SUSPECTED burglar was arrested on Good Friday night after he reportedly fired a homemade shotgun while inside a room he apparently meant to rob, and hit a man who was sleeping two rooms away, in Sta. Ana, Manila.

The pellets killed Avelino Betco, 45, liaison officer of an unidentified company, police said.

Betco's alleged assailant, Alexander Tulali, with no permanent city address, has yet to explain what he was doing inside the apartment at Block 20, Lot 4, Sampaguita Street Extension in Sta. Ana.

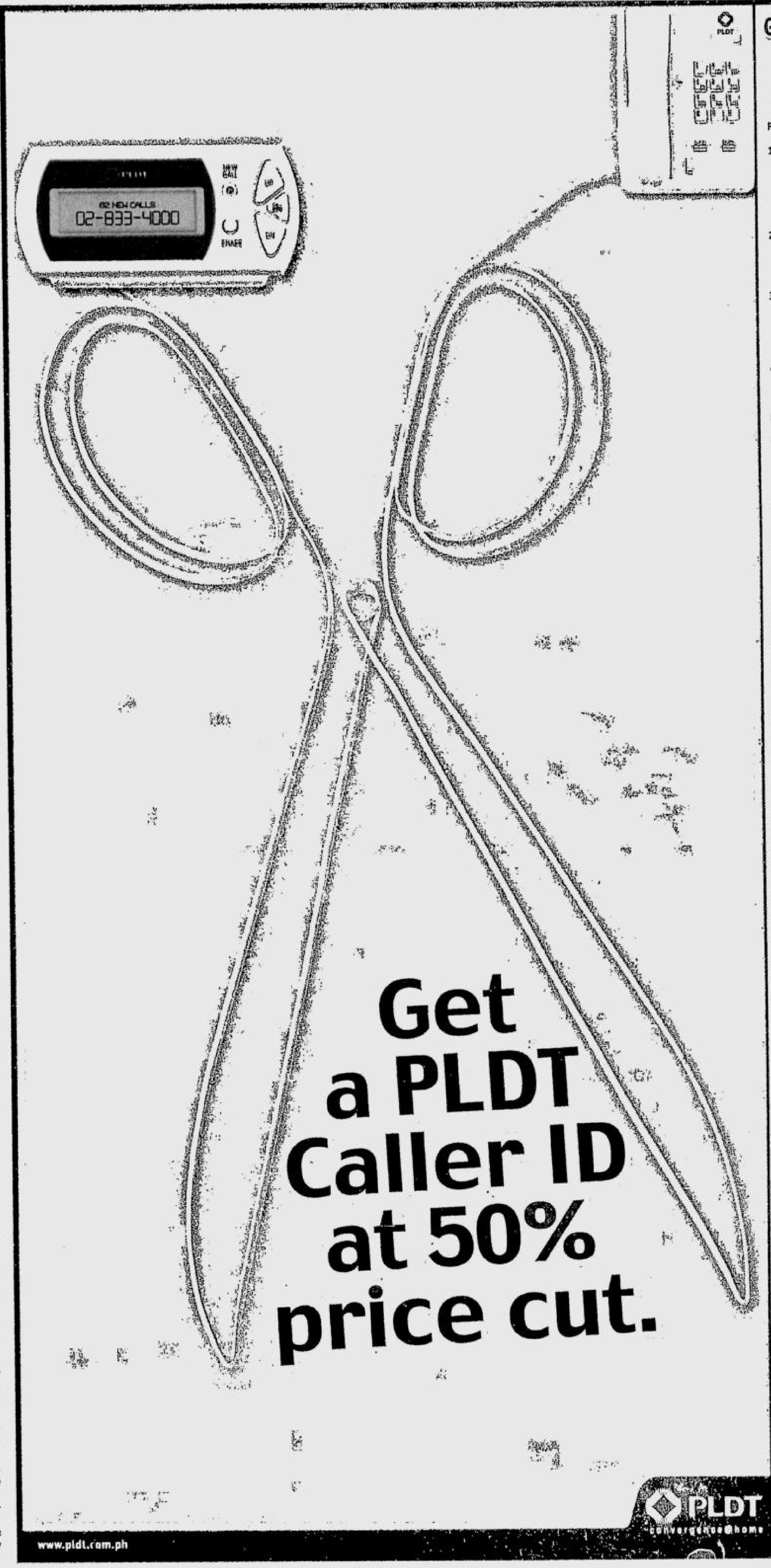
Witness Octavio Bello told SPO1 Danilo Vidad of the city police homicide section that he went out of his room to investigate after he heard what sounded like gunfire around 8 p.m. on Friday.

Bello said he found the dazed Tulali holding a smoking homemade shotgun. In the third room, Betco lay dead in bed.

Bello called a policeman-neighbor, Senior Insp. Virgilio Dacarra of the Western Police District, who apprehended the still-dazed Tulali.

Betco was declared dead on arrival at the Philippine General Hospital, police said.

Police said they believe Bello was a burglar. He was charged with murder yesterday at the city prosecutor's office.



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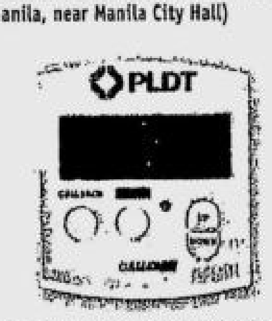

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Bad Good Friday: 2 killed, 2 injured, 1 robbed

By Jerome Aning and Philip C. Tubeza

TWO men were killed in two incidents on Good Friday, including one in Binondo, Manila who was allegedly stabbed to death by his live-in wife's sister, ex-husband and brothers-in-law.

Two other men were injured in Malabon, shot by a neighbor during a quarrel over water.

And in Quezon City, a businesswoman lost more than a million pesos in jewelry and cash to robbers who broke into her home.

Security guard Martin Tamayo, a resident of Masangkay Street, Tondo, and an employee of the Cyclone Security Agency who was detailed to the Malit Trucking Co. in Binondo, died from two deep stab wounds on the chest, said SPO3 Ismael de la Cruz.

The homicide investigator said Tamayo and his live-in partner Vilma Ivy Sabularce were asleep in a shanty in the trucking firm's parking lot when the woman's sister Amelita, 19; Amelita's husband Alfredo Taggana, 23; two other brothers-in-law, Roberto Taggana, 24, and Alfredo Ibanez, 33; and Sabularce's ex-husband, Reynaldo Tolero, arrived around 7 p.m. Friday.

SPO3 De la Cruz said the group came to stop the affair of Sabularce and Tamayo, of which they strongly disapproved. Tamayo did not tell them that Sabularce was with him, and he even entertained her relatives joined them in drinking, police said.

Sabularce and other witnesses told investigators that a scuffle broke out after the group had started drinking. Tamayo was later heard screaming for help as he lay on the ground bleeding.

Police arrested Ibanez and Alfredo and Amelita Taggana. The three are facing murder charges, police said. Tolero and Roberto Taggana, who were believed to have stabbed Tamayo, are still at large.

Drug deal

In Quiapo, Manila, taxi operator Abdul Gani Basir, 48, was shot to death by an unidentified man on Good Friday morning reportedly for refusing to convey the man to a drug deal rendezvous.

Basir, a native of Marawi City and a resident of 645 C. Palanca St., Quiapo, was shot in the chin and in the right hand, police said. The bullet that hit him in the chin entered his head, police added.

SPO3 Ernesto Jose Jr. and SPO2 Athos de Quiros said the shooting took place while Basir and the unidentified man were arguing at the corner of C. Palanca and Muelle de la Quinta at 10:15 a.m.

Witnesses Mommi Busara and Jamal Putanan told the police they heard the man berating Basir for refusing to accompany him to a place where an alleged drug transaction was supposed to take place.

The witnesses said it appeared, from the conversation they heard, that the man earlier hired one of Basir's cabs, with Basir as the driver.

Police said Basir's wife Ommita refused to have her husband autopsied and quickly brought his body to the Quiapo mosque for funeral rites.

Police believe that Busara and Putanan knew the gunman but were afraid to identify him.

Blood and water

In Malabon, blood was spilled during a fight over water.

Brothers Ramon and Noli Fria, both of 244 C. Arellano St., Baritan, Málabon, were shot by their neighbor Rafael Santos, also Friday night, said investigator PO3 Ferdinand Espiritu.

The investigator said that when a water truck arrived in their neighborhood at 9:50 p.m., Ramon and Santos quickly fell in line but they could not agree on who came first. They argued until Santos pulled out a handgun of unknown caliber and shot Ramon in the neck, PO3 Espiritu said.

When Noli tried to help his brother, Santos also shot him in the stomach, police said.

Ramon was getting treated at the Mary Johnson's Hospital in Tondo, and Noli at the Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center in Sta. Cruz.

Malabon police were still looking for Santos.

'Akyat-bahay'

Despite repeated police warnings about Holy Week break-ins, robbers were able to enter a businesswoman's house in Quezon City and stole more than a million pesos worth of jewelry and P8,000 cash.

The victim was Luz O. Rodriguez, 62, of No. 6 3rd St., Saint Ignatius Subdivision, Project 4, said desk officer SPO4 Rafael de Peralta of the Central Police District-Criminal Investigation Unit (CPD-CIU).

De Peralta said the robbers broke in while Rodriguez and other members of her household were not home. The robbers destroyed a window in the room of Rodriguez's daughter and ransacked the master's bedroom.

Student missing with phone buyers' money

STUDENT Allan Martin C. Montinola of the Philippine School of Business Administration (PSBA) is on the run from the law and from his fraternity brothers. Police said he devised a dubious business scheme that made him rich at the expense of his schoolmates.

Montinola, a resident of 97 Matimtiman St., Sikatuna Village, Quezon City, tricked 27 of his schoolmates and his fraternity brothers into buying Nokia cell phones from him at a discounted price, according to investigator PO2 Randy Escobido.

But after they gave him their money, Montinola's classmates and frat brothers did not see any trace of the cellular phones he promised, police said. Later on, they also did not see Montinola, who went into hiding after taking their money, Escobido added.

The complainants told investigators in Camp Karingal in Sikatuna Village that Montinola started offering Nokia phones at a discounted price in January and February.

They said he told them they should first pay him before they could get the phones they ordered, Escobido said.

The complainants said they trusted Montinola since his fraternity brothers were among his clients.

But when February passed, Montinola began giving different alibis for his failure to produce the phones, they said. When March came, he made himself scarce to his customers until they could no longer contact him.

"He had become a rich young man," Escobido said.

The victims filed a case of estafa against Montinola with the Central Police District-Criminal Investigation Unit (CPD-CIU) in Camp Karingal, Ecobido said.

CPD investigators are now hunting him down.

Philip C. Tubeza, Sharon C. Jaylo

Convict finds . . .

(From page A25)

turning his back on his faith to be with the woman he loved.

Santos discussed the Muslim faith with Padilla and felt he could live with it. Later, he took up his vows as a Muslim, called himself Muhammad Ali Santos and, within the week, married Cunaco.

"Padilla was even at my side when I took my vows as a Muslim," Santos smiled proudly. "He was also our *ninong* at our wedding."

He learned all there was to know about Islam, the prayers, practices and even passages from the Koran, which he read every day.

But in 1999, Cunaco left him and went to Hong Kong. Santos shed his Muslim beliefs and went back to the Catholic fold, resuming his painful *panata* or vow of being crucified.

"I realized that the one true God is the Catholic Christian God," Santos said. "He sent His only Son Jesus Christ to save us. Jesus is God, too. I learned a lot from the Muslim faith, but it did not jibe with my fundamental beliefs."

He returned his copy of the Koran to the Muslim ustadz in prison. His former brothers accepted his decision, he said.

Santos was born and raised in General Mariano Alvarez, Cavite and had known the depths of poverty early on. One night when he was in his early twenties, his daughter fell seriously ill and was taken to a hospital. Doctors told him his daughter had no chance of surviving her bout with the mysterious illness.

Santos said he took his daughter home, watched over her and prayed like he never did before. He fell asleep and dreamed of the Black Nazarene coming down from heaven. Santos took this as a sign to surrender himself completely to his faith. Later, his daughter recovered.

"I knew then the Black Nazarene had helped me," Santos said. "Because He saved my daughter, I knew I had to renew my faith and devotion to God."

He began attending the Nazarene's fiesta in Quiapo, along with thousands of other devotees.

But fate took an ugly turn for Santos when he was charged with robbery in Cavite. To this day, he asserted he was set up and wrongfully punished.

For 20 years he would not accept his fate and got into trouble with the other inmates. He lost his left eye in a fight with other prisoners, earning for himself the moniker "Kamatis."

"He was quite a troublemaker then," one prison guard who requested anonymity told the INQUIRER. "But he has mellowed down now, probably because he has grown older."

Santos is still heavyset, but age has crept in. He is now balding. Tattoos adorn his limbs and body. His skin is deeply tanned from years under the sun.

"I had nothing else, so I prayed hard," he said of his dark days behind bars. After 20 years in maximum security, he was transferred to the medium security block.

It was then that he met Ranger, another prisoner who introduced him to the fine points of crucifixion. When Ranger was released in 1991, Santos took his place on the cross.

"It's true God works in mysterious ways," Santos said as he waited to be impaled. "And we must never forget to pray to Him—no matter what our religion is."

Remains of suicide unclaimed

A DAY after she jumped into the Cubao underpass, the remains of an unidentified woman remained unclaimed in a Quezon City hospital's morgue.

The woman committed suicide around noon on Good Friday at the intersection of Edsa and Aurora Boulevard, said investigator PO2 Randy Escobido of the Central Police District's Criminal Investigation Unit (CPD-CIU).

Escobido described the woman as 30-35 years old, fair complexioned, 5-foot-2 to 5-foot-4 in height, and wearing white and green short pants and a red vest.

He said the woman was dressed decently and did not seem like a "*taong grasa*" or a dirty homeless person.

"Before she jumped, she walked back and forth along the top of the underpass," the investigator said. "She also leaned over the railings several times to look at the traffic below.

"The vendors were telling her to be careful for she might fall. The next thing they knew, she had jumped."

Philip C. Tubeza

Two men collide head on . . .

(From page A25)

They had a picnic in the concrete berthing area of the harbor's Pier 18.

Witnesses told SPO3 Jose and SPO2 De Quiros that Salvador apparently did not see that Infante was directly in his path when Salvador jumped into the water from the edge of the berthing area.

Their heads slammed into each other. Infante was knocked out unconscious and quickly sank into the water, witnesses said.

Their other friends also jumped into the water and tried to rescue Infante, but they failed to find him. They asked the help of the PPA police which in turn called in the Coast Guard.

Frogmen led by PO3 Celestino Barrientos found Infante's body at 2 p.m. It was taken to the Sanctuary Funeral Homes in Sta. Cruz, where autopsy conducted by the Western Police District's crime laboratory showed Infante, of Pagkakaisa Street, Barrio Magsaysay, Tondo, died of traumatic head injuries.

Port policemen arrested Salvador, 25, a resident of Quezon Street, Barrio Magsaysay, and turned him over to the WPD. He was detained at the WPD Integrated Jail.

SPO3 Jose and SPO2 De Quiros said they would charge Salvador with reckless imprudence resulting in homicide. They added, however, that they are also waiting if the families of Infante and Salvador would opt for an out of court settlement.

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April 15, 2001 – Inquirer

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Events mark UP Film Center's 25th year

FRENCH Oscar winner "Indochine," starring Catherine Deneuve, and "Pagdating sa Dulo" by national artist nominee for film Ishmael Bernal, will open at the UP Film Center on Tuesday, April 24, 2001.

The gala screenings are the first of the big events in the 25th anniversary celebration of the UP Film Center from April to December 2001.

Brussels Independent Film Festival 1998 Grand Prix winner Tikoy Aguiluz ("Rizal sa Dapitan") and 2000 Cannes Film Festival Grand Prix winner Raymond Red ("Anino"), together with the UP Film Center's young independent filmmakers, will pay homage to National Artists for Film—Gerry de Leon, Lino Brocka, Ishmael Bernal and Lamberto Avellana.

French Ambassador Gilles Chouraqui will lead the guests of honor in the ritual planting of a champaca tree in the film center's Perfumed Garden.

For membership subscriptions, call the UP Film Center at 926-36-40, or e-mail at *upfc@yahoo.com.*

Tiangco is mayor

IN INDAY Badiday's Face to Face column on April 6 in the INQUIRER's Saturday Special section, Mayor Toby Tianco of Navotas was erroneously identified as "Vice Mayor."

Tiangco, former vice mayor of the Metro Manila town, is running for reelection as mayor in the May 14 elections.

Blockbuster on the beach

PINOY Blockbuster Channel heats up the summer with sizzling movies set in different seaside locations in "PBC On the Beach Filmfest" from April 16 to 20 at 7 p.m.

Dina Bonnevie, Deborah Sun, Azenith Briones and Bambi Arambulo star in "Temptation Island" on Monday. Snooky Serna and Lloyd Samartino star in the love story "Strangers in Paradise" on Tuesday. Gelli de Belen and Jomari Yllana fall in love on an island in "Ikaw Lang ang Mamahalin (Camiguin)" on Wednesday.

Eric Fructuoso and Maricel Morales are in "Virgin Island" on Thursday. Ronnie Ricketts and Donita Rose see action on the beach in "Anak ng Dagat" on Friday.

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5	DOLBY SURROUND	ABAKADA ... INA
6	DOLBY SURROUND	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
7	DOLBY DIGITAL	SWEET NOVEMBER
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1	DOLBY DIGITAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3	DOLBY DIGITAL	THE CROW
4	DTS	RUGRTAS
5	DOLBY SURROUND	THE GIFT
6	DOLBY SURROUND	GLADIATOR (RI)
7	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
8	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	AIR BUD 3
9	DOLBY SURROUND	ABAKADA.. INA
10	DOLBY SURROUND	SWEET NOVEMBER
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SAVE THE LAST DANCE
12	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

SM CITY NORTH EDSA 9295452

1	DOLBY SURROUND	THEY NEST
2	DOLBY SURROUND	ABAKADA ... INA
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SEDUCER
4	DOLBY SURROUND	RUGRATS
5	DOLBY SURROUND	AIR BUD 3
6	DOLBY SURROUND	SAVE THE LAST DANCE
7	DTS	THE CROW
8	DOLBY DIGITAL	SWEET NOVEMBER
9	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
10	DOLBY SURROUND	GLADIATOR
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	WEDDING PLANNER
12	DOLBY SURROUND	CROUCHING TIGER

SM SOUTHMALL 8066888 • 8066782

1	ULTRA SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2	ULTRA SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	SAVE THE LAST DANCE
4	ULTRA SURROUND	THE CROW
5	ULTRA SURROUND	SEDUCER
6	ULTRA SURROUND	GLADIATOR
7	ULTRA SURROUND	ABAKADA ... INA
8	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	SWEET NOVEMBER
9	ULTRA SURROUND	AIR BUD 3
10	ULTRA SURROUND	RUGRATS

TUTUBAN CENTER 2514302

1	ULTRA SURROUND	SWEET NOVEMBER
2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	AIR BUD 3
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	THE CROW
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	ABAKADA ... INA

SM CEBU 2313876

1	DOLBY SURROUND	WEDDING PLANNER
2	ULTRA SURROUND	GLADIATOR
3	ULTRA SURROUND	SAVE THWE LAST DANCE
4	ULTRA SURROUND	MS. CONGENIALITY
5	ULTRA SURROUND	UHAW SA INIT
6	ULTRA SURROUND	RUGRATS
7	DOLBY SURROUND	BAIT

SM ILOILO 3209422

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2	ULTRA SURROUND	CLOSED
3	ULTRA SURROUND	BAIT
4	ULTRA SURROUND	WEDDING PLANNER
5	ULTRA SURROUND	MS. CONGENIALITY
6	ULTRA SURROUND	RUGRATS
7	ULTRA SURROUND	CLOSED
8	ULTRA SURROUND	BABAENG PUTIK

SM PAMPANGA 7128015

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2	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	THEY NEST
3	DOLBY SURROUND	CHOCOLAT
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	UHAW SA INIT
5	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
6	DOLBY SURROUND	ABAKADA ... INA

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5 WEDDING PLANNER In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
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7 SAVE THE LAST DANCE In DTS DIGITAL SOUND

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4 SAVE THE LAST DANCE In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5 ABAKADA... INA In DTS DIGITAL SOUND

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5 GOLD (DOLBY)	THE GIFT
6 GOLD (SDDS)	THE REPLACEMENT
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	THE CROW
8 [illegible]	THEY NEST
9 [illegible]	SAVE THE LAST DANCE
10 [illegible]	ABAKADA INA

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1	ALIW MASARAP ANG LASON
2	
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4	
5	
6 (DTS)	

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Masagana CINEMAX 1-2 & 3
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1 (DOLBY)	SWEET NOVEMBER
2 (DTS)	RUGRATS
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3	ALIW MASARAP ANG LASON

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3	ABAKADA ... INA
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SWEET NOVEMBER
5	ALIW MASARAP ANG LASON

Metropolis
(Alabang) tel 543.4001

1	THE CROW
2	SEDUCER
3	ABAKADA . INA
4	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
5	SWEET NOVEMBER
6	GLADIATOR
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2	ALIW MASARAP ANG LASON
3	

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A	DRACULA

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3	RESERVE
4	SAVE THE LAST DANCE
5	SEDUCER
6	ABAKADA ... INA
7 (DTS)	RUGRATS
8 (SDDS)	AIR BUD 3
9 (DOLBY)	THE CROW

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2	ABAKADA INA
3	RESERVE
4	RESERVE
5	
6	

Grand Central
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1	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
2	ABAKADA ... INA
3	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
4 (SDDS)	GLADIATOR
5	SEDUCER
6 (DOLBY)	THE CROW
7 (DTS)	SWEET NOVEMBER
8	RESERVE
9	RESERVE

Commonwealth
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1 (DTS)	SWEET NOVEMBER
2	ABAKADA INA
3	SEDUCER
4	RUGRATS
5 (SDDS)	ALIW MASARAP ANG LASON
6	RESERVE
7 (DOLBY)	THE CROW
8	RESERVE

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tel 656.6795

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2	SEDUCER
3 (DTS)	SWEET NOVEMBER
4	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
5 (SDDS)	GLADIATOR
6 (DOLBY)	RESERVE
7 (DOLBY)	RESERVE

Universal
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1	ABAKADA INA

Sampaquita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	ABAKADA INA

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2	ABAKADA.. INA
3	SWEET NOVEMBER
4	THE CROW

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1	
3	ALIW MASARAP ANG LASON

Super Cinerama
(Manila) tel 733.4226 or 733.4238

1	SWEET NOVEMBER
2	THE CROW
3	RUGRATS
4	ABAKADA... INA
5	SEDUCER

Divisoria Mall
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1	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
2	ABAKADA .. INA
3	ALIW MASARAP ANG LASON
4	PRODIGAL FIGHTER
5	UUBUSIN KO ANG BALA ..
6	SECRET OF THE ANDES

Baclaran LRT Cinema
tel 512.0115 or 512.0116

1	ABAKADA... INA
2	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
3	ALIW MASARAP ANG LASON

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
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tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
2	THEY NEST
3 (DTS)	ABAKADA INA

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	ABAKADA ... INA
2 (DTS)	RUGRATS
3 (DOLBY)	THEY NEST
4	SECERET OF THE ANDES

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	ABAKADA . INA
2	SWEET NOVEMBER
3	RUGRATS
4 (DTS)	ALIW MASARAP ANG LASON

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
2	THEY NEST
3 (DTS)	RUGRATS
4	UUBUSIN KO ANG BALA ..
5	ABAKADA INA

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	ABAKADA ... INA
2	RUGRATS
3	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 536.5101

1	ABAKADA INA
2	RUGRATS
3	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT

Olivarez Tagaytay
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1	GLADIATOR
2	BABAENG PUTIK
3	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	THE GIFT
2	ABAKADA INA
3	RUGRATS

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	ABAKADA ... INA
2	ALIW MASARAP ANG LASON
3	DRACULA
4	

Cabuyao
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1 (DTS)	THEY NEST
2 (DTS)	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT

Fourstep
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1	ABAKADA INA

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
2	ABAKADA INA
3	UUBUSIN KO ANG BALA

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

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2	THE GIFT
3	TOTAL AIKIDO
4	PAY IT FORWARD

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2	

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2	RESERVE
3	RESERVE
4	RESERVE

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3	THEY NEST
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2. RUGRATS
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6. TOTAL AIKIDO

DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

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ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101

ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	ABAKADA.. INA
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	SWEET NOVEMBER
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	RUGRATS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	THE CROW
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	THEY NEST
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	AIR BUD 3
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	SWEET NOVEMBER
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	ALIW (Re-issue)
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	ALIW MATAMIS ANG LASON
MIRAMAR	BALAHIBONG PUSA / BODY SHOT
ODEON	THE CROW
ODEON-2	ALIW MATAMIS ANG LASON
ROBEN	ABAKADA... INA
TANDEM-1	UHAW SA INIT
TANDEM-2	TOTAL AIKIDO
TIMES	EYE OF BEHOLDER / REMEMBER THE TITANS
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	TOO MUCH FLESH / VITAL PARTS
QUEZON-1	ALIW MATAMIS ANG LASON
REMAR	ABAKADA... INA
REMAR-2	ALIW MATAMIS ANG LASON
CUBAO	
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OCEAN CINEMA-B	CRISELDA
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	RUGRATS
CINEMA-2	SWEET NOVEMBER
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-54091 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	ABAKADA... INA
CINEMA-2	SAVE THE LAST DANCE
CINEMA-3	SEDUCER
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	GLADIATOR
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
CINEMA-6	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
CINEMA-7	ALIW
CINEMA-8	DRACULA 2000
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	RUGRATS
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	RUGRATS
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	SWEET NOVEMBER
CINEMA-12	AIR BUD 3
CINEMA-14	THE CROW
CINEMA-15	ABAKADA . INA
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	CHOCOLAT
CINEMA-2	AIR BUD 3
CINEMA-3	RUGRATS IN PARIS
CINEMA-4	THE CROW
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CINEMA-6	SWEET NOVEMBER

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8:45 PM - Sweet November
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Hot, quick and quiet night

By Alex Y. Vergara

WHO says you can't teach an old dog new tricks?

Famas, the country's oldest award-giving body that has become notorious for staging marathon awards nights that went on long after the cock had crowed, came up with one of the shortest and most organized shows in recent memory.

After giving away 25 or so awards interspersed with seen-that, what's-new production numbers, the recent Famas 2001 was over in three-and-a-half hours. Even Kris Aquino, one of the evening's hosts, who probably told son Josh not to wait up, was surprised at the quick pace of events.

"You're lucky," said the outspoken queen of talk TV during a commercial break. "This is probably the fastest paced (awards night) of all."

She wasn't exaggerating. The show began a little before 8 p.m., and was over 20 minutest before midnight, when guests were perhaps bracing themselves for a six-hour stretch.

Producers mercifully kept production numbers to a minimum. No non-singers, has-been child stars and Japayuki wannabes inflicted themselves on the audience this time. In lieu of awards night staple Amanda Page and Glydel Mercado, muscle-bound Vina Morales defied gravity on stage.

Teatro Aguinaldo's cool air conditioning was also a welcome relief. Yes, Luzon, including Metro Manila, sweltered in the heat as the entire island was earlier plunged in a daylong blackout that black Saturday.

FAIRYTALE FIGURES. Kris Aquino and Carlos Agassi get cozy.

While fellow host Carlos Agassi sweated like a Coleman jug filled with ice-cold water, Kris and Diether Ocampo looked as fresh as the first blooms of May throughout the show.

Kris glided like a princess in an off-shoulder scarlet gown with a beaded bodice and bouffant skirt by Rajo Laurel, while Diether appeared cool in a beige *barong*. Smiling-face Carlos wore a dark suit and tie.

Absent hosts

You've heard of lip-sync singers, but have you come across absent hosts?

Pops Fernandez and good friend Troy Montero appeared in several taped segments that were spliced to appear part of the show. The busy Concert Queen chose to host "Hope and Winston Superstakes," a simultaneous live show, in person, that same night.

Kris was constantly dolled up and assisted by several aides during lulls in the show. No, she wasn't trying to pull off a diva act. Her huge petticoat had to be carefully lifted every time she sat down beyond camera range.

For all its supposed modern features, the Teatro seemed to have no adequate green room to accommodate its artists. We even caught Kris later spraying perfume on her bare shoulders before heading for the podium, while sweaty Carlos kept wiping his forehead with a hanky in-between takes.

Limited exposure

We were bracing ourselves for a long night ahead when no major award had yet been handed out 35 minutes into the show. Were we glad to be wrong.

The show later picked up speed by limiting the exposure of recipients of so-called special awards.

Instead, Donita Rose, herself the recipient of the Dr. Ciriaco Santiago memorial award, earlier interviewed several special awardees at the lobby. They later paraded onstage, without getting anywhere near the mike, to receive their trophies.

"Ay, wa na speech," a bitchy spectator noticed. *"Nakakaloka!"*

The recipients were

HOT/ A30

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1 CHOCOLAT - P 13 12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:10	2 AIR BUD 3 - G 11:35, 1:35, 3:35, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30	3 RUGRATS IN PARIS - G 11:00, 12:50, 2:40, 4:30, 6:20, 8:10, 10:00
4 THE CROW - R 18 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50	5 CROUCHING TIGER - P13 11:20, 1:50, 4:20, 6:50, 9:30	6 SWEET NOVEMBER - P 13 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

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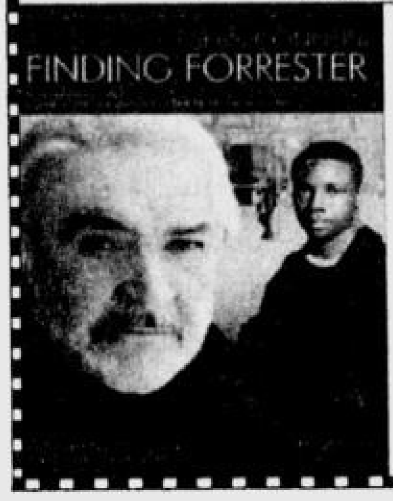

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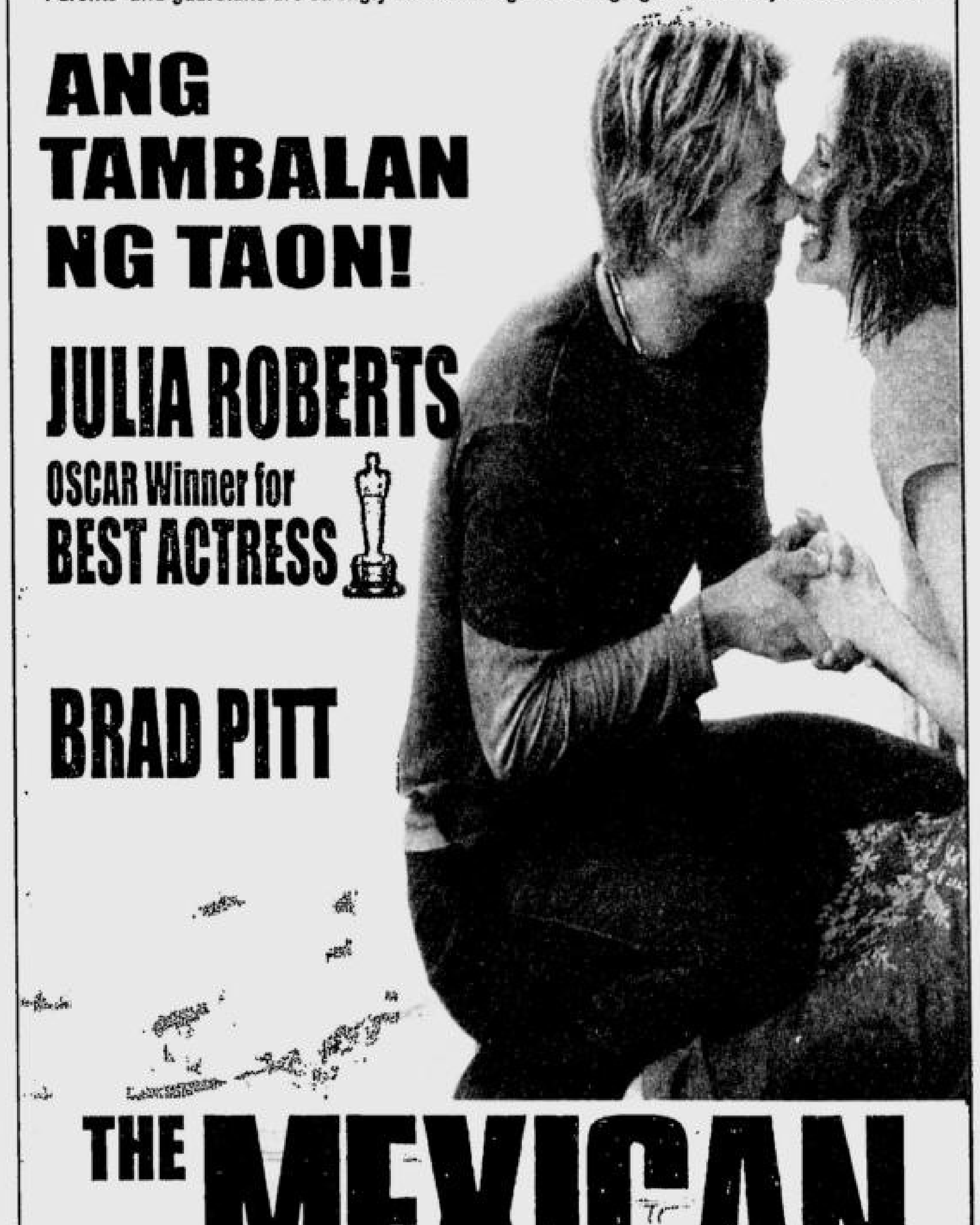

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PHOTOS BY RANDY HORMILLOSA

FRONT AND BACK. Cherie Gil is perfect from all angles.

Hot . . .

(From page A28)

probably as baffled as the audience was about with the new system that later on became as inconsistent as the Famas criteria for excellence. Unlike the other awardees, Donita managed to head for the podium to say her thank-yous. She was also interviewed earlier by Kris.

THE NAME OF THE ROSE is Donita, the VJ who got a special award.

Disappointed

The venue's location also helped reduce the presence of rowdy fans. Besides, with neither Nora Aunor nor Vilma Santos in the running, their respective possé of loyalists had probably little incentive to pass through several Army checkpoints and shout themselves hoarse at the mere mention of the names of their idols.

In fact, the few who trooped to Camp Aguinaldo to stargaze probably went home disappointed. Top stars and nominees such as Maricel Soriano, Lorna Tolentino and Dolphy were no-shows. Richard Gomez and Lucy Torres were missing. Even best actress winner Gloria Romero didn't show up.

With no screaming fans around, best supporting actress winner Alessandra da Rossi tried to make up for the silence. The teen star, who was seated next to her show biz friends, Danica Sotto and Angelika de la Cruz, squealed like a toddler after hearing Cogie Domingo's name in the roster of best actor nominees. Hmmm, do we see a young show biz romance brewing between the promising pair?

Milking it dry

Despite the lackluster affair, however, trust Famas (well, just like the rest) not to pass the chance to milk dry the annual show.

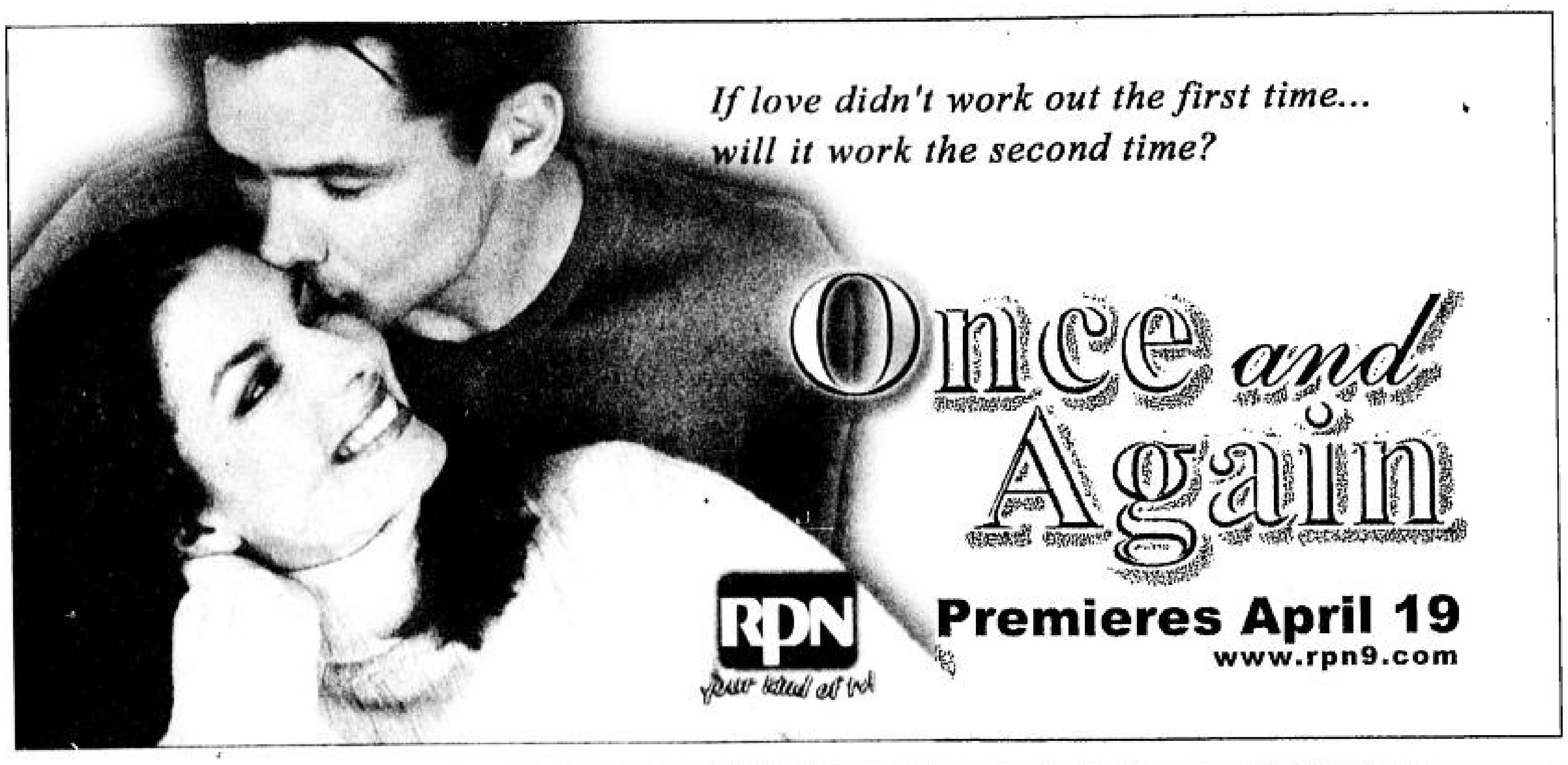
On top of the advertising load it generated from the TV airing of the awards night, Famas officials were able to assemble a thick souvenir program they sold to the public for P100 each. Names of nominees and past winners were lumped together with paid greetings from corporate sponsors, politicians, wannabes, has-beens and struggling bold stars.

A sampling: "Abangan!! 'Paninda' starring Pyar Mirasol." Who? "More Power to the 49th Famas Celebration!!! . . . Love & Dare me—Ian Valdez." We wouldn't dare!

Weren't the pages and pages of solicitations enough to cover the cost of the updated listing?

Even journalists covering the event had to shell out money for the souvenir program to help them keep track of the nominees. We're not asking for special treatment, but aren't organizers of such public events obliged to provide that kind of information to the media for free?

Thank God for small mercies. At least this year's Famas awards edition didn't keep us awake until morning. Like in the case of the moribund film industry, there's still hope for Famas yet.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Nanette, Teysi bring back two well-loved comic acts

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

COMEDIENNE **Nanette Inventor** has impersonated a number of characters, from socialites to beauty queen wannabes to politicians, but has always been best known for her Doña Buding act, which was born on the now-defunct "Penthouse Live," hosted by **Martin Nievera** and **Pops Fernandez**.

"I did it for four years on TV, from 1983 to 1987," Nanette shares. "When 'Penthouse Live' stopped airing, I continued doing it onstage and in other live shows."

But Nanette at one point got tired of doing the character and decided to "retire" it.

Nanette is resurrecting Doña Buding in an eight-night stand-up comedy act (April 20 and 21 at the Music Museum, May 2, 3, 9 and 10 at Onstage Greenbelt and May 11 and 12 again at Music Museum).

This time, though, the nouveau riche social butterfly has metamorphosed into a socio-political activist who wants to run for senator.

"Buding is a timeless character," Nanette says. "There's a Buding in every Filipino. This is a perfect time for satire and Buding is perfect for the pre-election circus. She wants to make her presence felt all over the country again."

It was director **Joey Reyes** who created Maria Leonila Evaporada Casinday viuda de Ford—more popularly known as Doña Buding.

"I never used any scriptwriter for Buding," Nanette says. "In 1995, Joey decided to make Buding run for mayor and it was a huge hit. So we thought, why can't she come back this time and run for senator?

"Buding has been away for so long. But after People Power II, she now has a social conscience and wants to enter politics. She can no longer contain her silence after a series of scandals that beset the country. She wants to make it known that she won't take things sitting down but would try to make a difference in the country by being a senator."

Buding will talk about the deposed President, his wife and mistresses, and what she really thinks of **Korina** and **Noli**.

She will also bash her senatorial opponents and will reveal her deepest secret—about how she used to beat up President **Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo** and push her in the Pampanga River when they were little girls in Guagua.

"I will not spare anybody in the bashing, not even GMA," Nanette says. "I will not spoof anyone. It will just be Doña Buding. She will tackle everything you've always wanted to know about how to make the country work. We will also include a special question-and-answer segment with selected members of the audience."

This time, Buding will have not only a pashmina but flamboyant gowns created by designer **Danilo Franco**.

"There is nothing subdued," Nanette says. "Everything will be outlandish."

Doña Buding has become so identified with Nanette that some people don't even call her by her real name anymore. They call her Buding.

"Everywhere I go, even in Europe, there are people who call me Buding. Even if the character is no longer seen on TV, they still remember Buding. She has become synonymous with my personality and I really don't mind."

"Buding for Senator" will use an original libretto by Joey Reyes and a song composed by **Ryan Cayabyab**. It is directed by **Tony Espejo**.

"Buding will win by an avalanche, not just a landslide," says Nanette.

War of the classes

THE CONFLICTS and tensions between the rich and powerful Tengco family and the poor and powerless Lagmay family are back on TV as ABS-CBN presents "Eto na ang Susunod na Kabanata."

The new sitcom continues the never-ending bickerings between the two families from different social classes.

Tessie Tomas and **Noel Trinidad** reprise their popular roles as **Barbara** and **Anding Tengco**. This time, they have a son, **JP** (played by **Gabe Mercado**).

Meanwhile, in the slum, Sammy Lagmay is now with his third wife, **Puring** (**Candy Pangilinan**), a retired Japayuki. Still unemployed, Sammy has not abandoned his wily ways. He has an eight-year-old daughter, **Duchess** (**Serena Dalrymple**).

The sitcom is made even wackier with the entry of the Katuray family, headed by **Azucena** (Nanette Inventor), **Domeng** (**Berting Labra**) and their daughter **Twinkle** (**Denise Joaquin**).

"Eto na ang Susunod na Kabanata" replaces "Richard Loves Lucy" on Sundays, 8:30 p.m.

NANETTE REINVENTED. Buding is a timeless character

UNDOUBTED TOMAS. Tessie her Barbara Tengco character in "Eto na ang Susunod na Kabanata."

Trumpets inks contract with Singaporean conglomerate

TRUMPETS Playshop officer Butch Jimenez recently signed a contract with Singaporean media conglomerate SPH Mediaworks for Playshop to develop and conduct acting and performing arts workshops for the conglomerate's artists.

Trumpets Playshop is the biggest performing arts workshop in the Philippines.

Mediaworks is the newest TV network in Singapore. It is owned by Singapore Press Holdings, which also owns The Singapore Strait Times, the Asia-one website as well as other firms involved in telecommunications, Internet, radio and other related fields.

"Filipinos excel in the performing arts and our partners in Singapore have seen that," Jimenez said.

"Initially, the series of workshops will be held exclusively for the talents of Mediaworks, which include some of the top names in the Singaporean entertainment scene," he said.

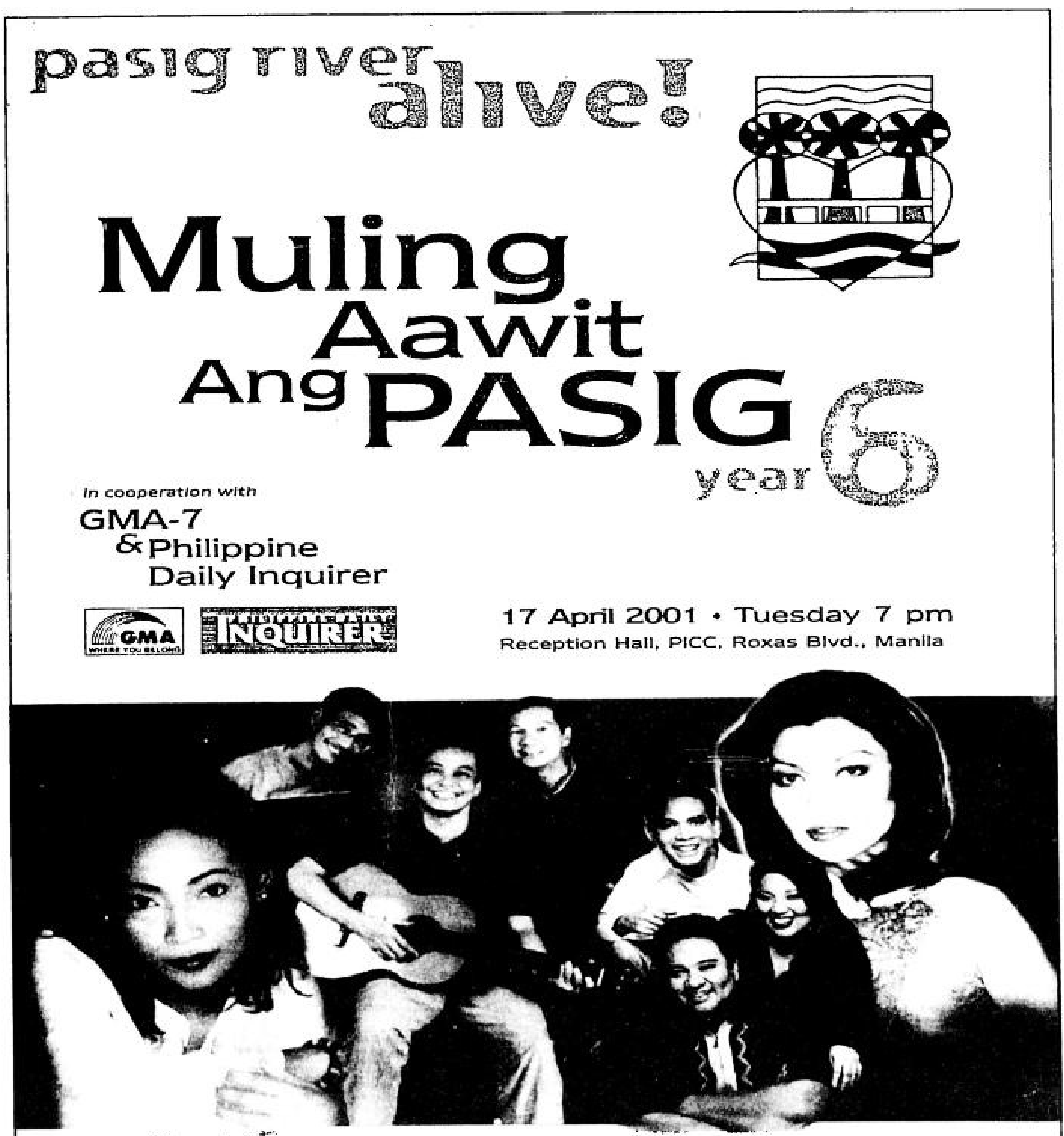
Jimenez said the contract opens the doors to regional partnership in the performing arts.

"Singapore is just the first stop," he said. "Hong Kong is next."

He revealed that discussions are going on about a tie-up between Playshop and a Hong Kong academy in which Playshop will conduct year-round seminars.

In the Philippines, registration for Playshop classes in acting, street and hip-hop dancing, modeling, voice, musical theater, newscasting and many more are going on.

For information, call 636-28-42 633-50-10.



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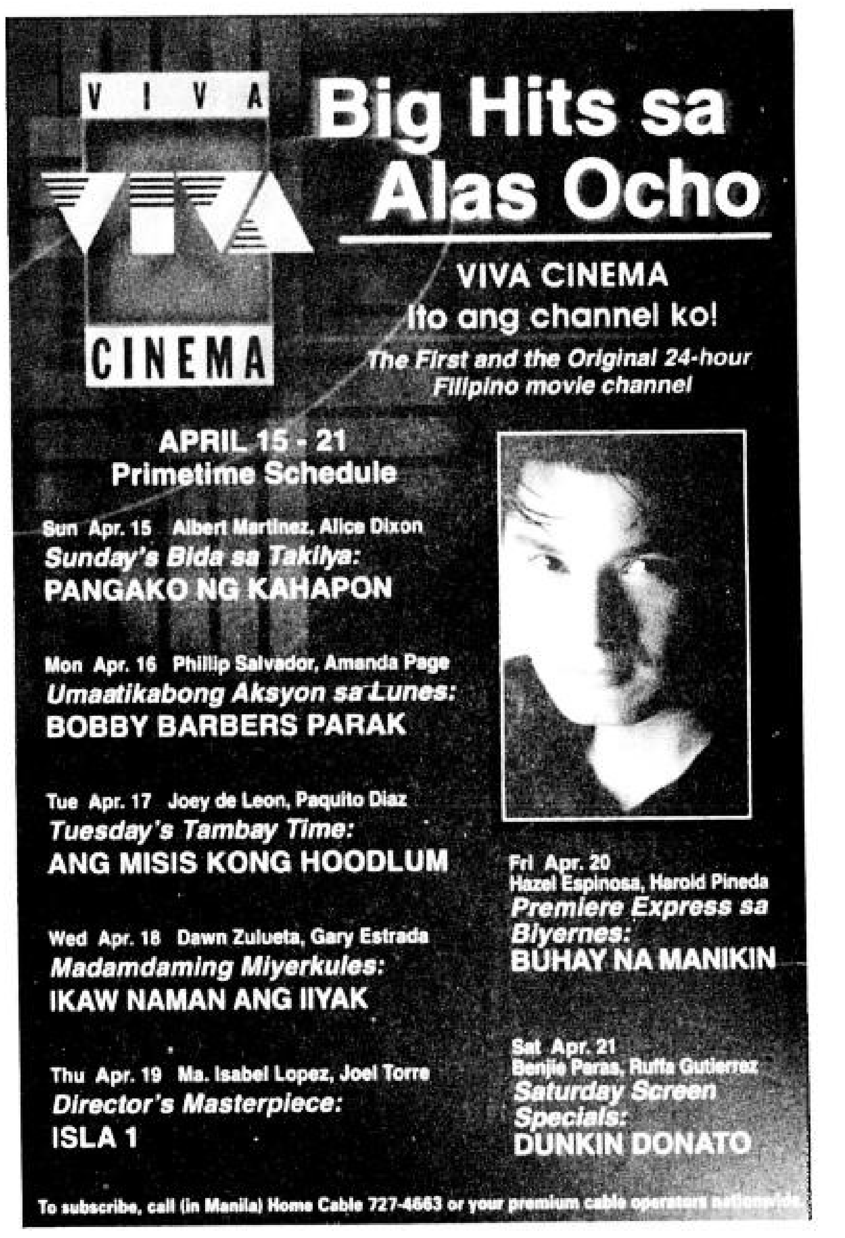

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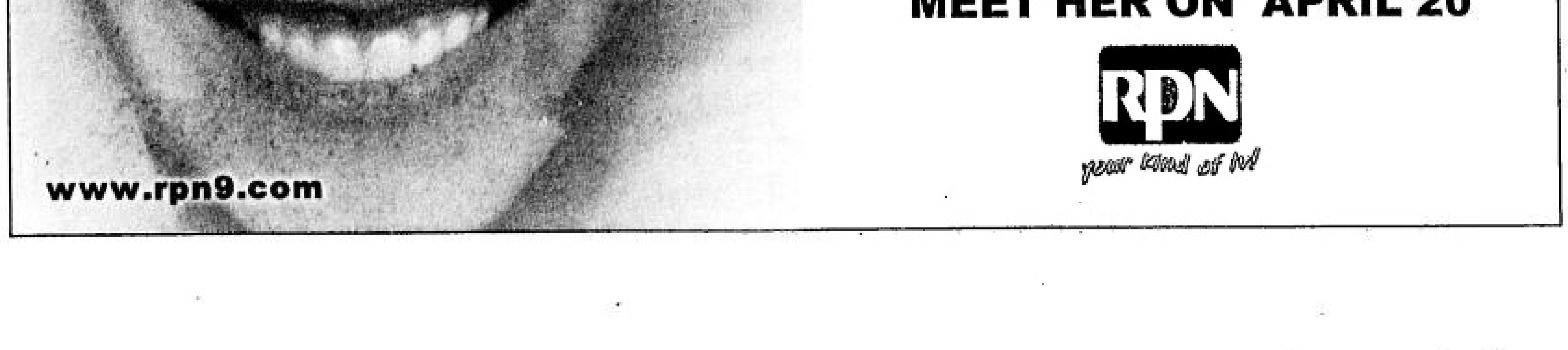

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ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Brother act

WE MADE it a point to catch **Enrico Quizon**'s TV movie, "Ang Estateside Kong Pag-ibig" last Sunday night on Channel 7 because it looked like it was going to be a fun-filled romantic-comedy romp. It was that in spots, but not often enough to make it a consistently delightful viewing experience.

What did it in was its excessively travelogue-y feel, which distended and slowed down its storytelling.

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

Also, **Jeffrey Quizon** was given too many opportunities to do self-serving solo turns that were similarly excessive because they weren't sufficiently integrated into the production's overall intent and flow.

Its leads, **Carmina Villaroel** and **Zoren Legaspi**, are the controversial stars of the moment, thanks to reports that they had an affair in the States that resulted in "double blessings" for them.

This back story did give their telesine some added curiosity value—but not much, since (to their credit) they didn't really use their TV movie to advertise their ecstatic feelings for each other.

In fact, their performances were proficient, but not very exciting or involving. Well, at least they weren't as distracting as Jeffrey, who really mugged up a storm.

There's no doubt that Jeffrey is a young comic find, and his Daddy **Dolphy**'s rightful heir. Unlike his dad, however, Jeffrey doesn't seem to have an instinct for not going over the top.

That being the case, he needs a director who can keep him in check and remind him of his limits. On last Sunday's TV movie, it was clear that he didn't find that director in his *Kuya* Enrico, who dotingly gave him every opportunity to overact. Brotherly love is great, but not at the expense of focused, disciplined characterization.

Their worst jobs

FOR most show biz luminaries, stardom is a dream that becomes a reality only after years of waiting, studying, struggling, even starving—and working at a series of odd jobs to keep body and soul together.

Some stars gloss over this part of their lives because the details could prove to be embarrassing, but others are more forthcoming.

They hope that, as they tell it like it is, aspiring performers will realize that stardom doesn't come on a silver platter and they must be ready, willing and able to work hard and hold on to their dream, however long it takes for their big break to come.

George Clooney reveals that the worst job he ever had was—cutting tobacco. That does sound like the height of drudgery—and awfully smelly, to boot.

His second worst job? Selling women's shoes. That doesn't strike us as a bad deal, especially if you've got a foot fetish. But Clooney said it was the pits because practically all of the women he attended to pretended to have a much smaller shoe size than what they really had! For example a size 8 would fiercely try to squeeze into a size 5, with Clooney pushing, shoving and gasping help, of course. Cinderella was never like this.

Minnie Driver's tale of woe had a Polish restaurant for its setting. "I was a waitness in this place called Vodka," she recalls, "and all the orders were in Polish, so I couldn't understand anything!

"Even worse, we kept over 16 different vodkas in the freezer and they were completely encrusted by ice, so I'd have to swig them to see what was what. So, I'd get completely wasted! Worst of all, I'd wake up the next day with a really foul hangover. It was horrible!"

Feedback

CONTINUATION of **Jiggs Labrador**'s e-mail on ABS-CBN shows:

"'The Global Filipino:' ABS management broke another perfect match in the duo of **Bobby Yan** and **Chinggoy**. **Rod Nepomuceno** is just dead on air. **Ryan Agoncillo** could have been a better replacement for Bobby.

"'Assignment:' **Teddy Locsin** used to host this show. One time, I saw **Tina Monzon-Palma**, but someone else hosted the show recently, so it seems nobody has been tapped as a permanent replacement. Perhaps **David Celdran** is worth considering, or if they want someone more mature, why not **Frank Evangelista**?

"'Keep on Dancing:' **Vina Morales** should be a mainstay in this show. She's a terrific dancer! I saw her dance the tango, and she was great." (*To be concluded.*)

Happy Easter, everyone!

Healing portraits in new 'Servant of All' album

THE FAMOUS healing portraits of Jesus Christ painted by Fr. Chito Dajao SDB, will be featured on the cover of the upcoming album "In His Time, Servant of All, Volume II, Praise, Worship & Prayer Songs."

This is the second volume of "Servant of All," the multi-platinum selling collection of songs, prayers and meditations released by Viva Records nearly a year ago.

Fr. Dajao is a 47-year-old Salesian priest of Don Bosco. He became ill with severe hepatitis in 1994 and has since been suffering from a rapidly deteriorating liver. Acknowledging that he was terminally ill, Fr. Dajao abandoned his hectic schedule as priest, teacher and administrator of the Don Bosco Boy's Town in Cebu.

Now he has turned to his childhood love—painting. But instead of painting assorted images, he chose to concentrate on the face of Christ.

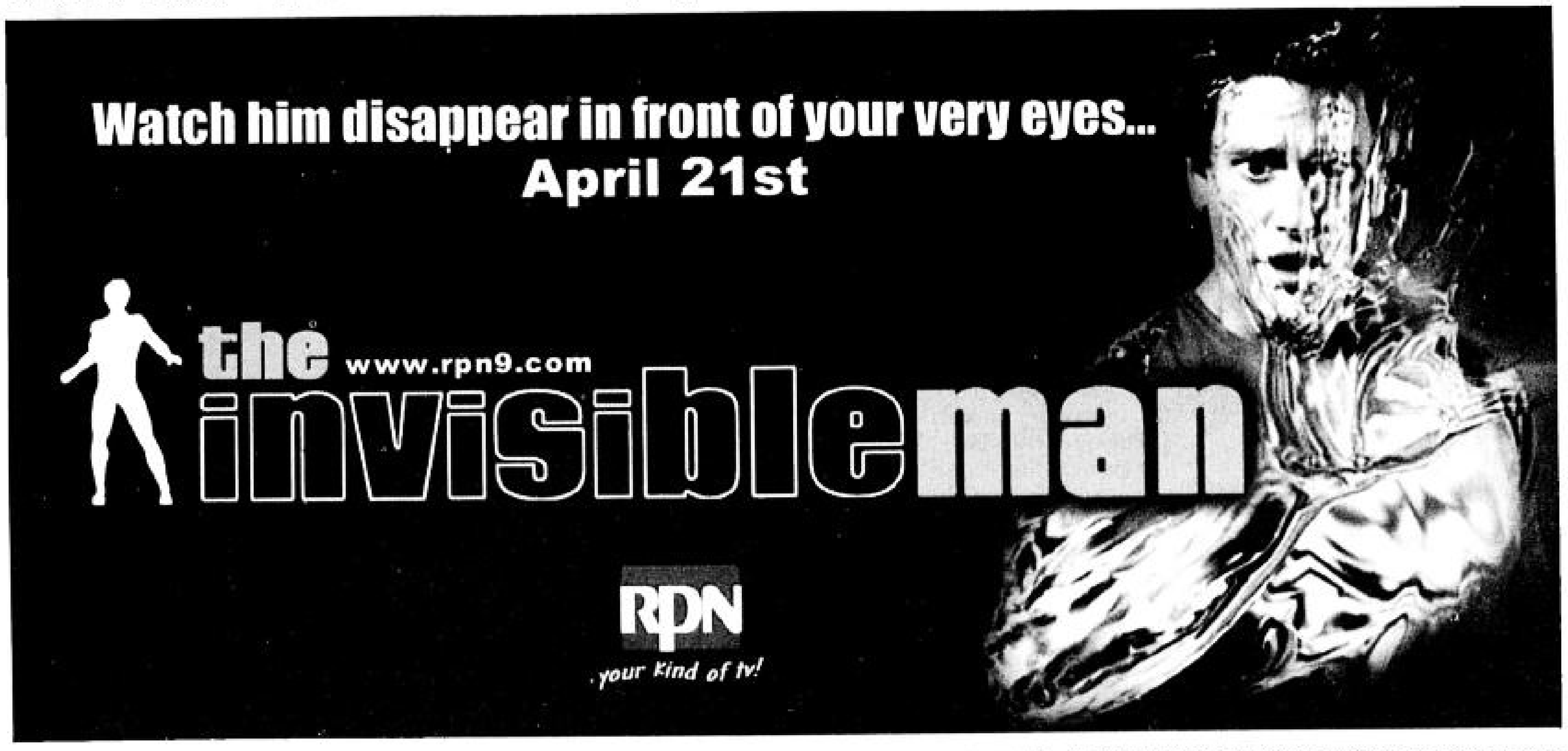
"Since my illness was diagnosed, I have painted only portraits of Christ because nothing speaks to me more powerfully," Fr. Dajao said. TV personality and singer Jeanne Young produced this new "Servant" album. She was also responsible for the hugely successful "Mother of All" and "Christmas for All" albums. It was she who thought of using Fr. Dajao's portraits for the cover of "In His Time."

"These are healing portraits," she says of Fr. Dajao's work. "I believe that they will enhance the beauty of the music and the prayers we have selected. These paintings are prayers in themselves and I am sure they will help heal our illnesses, broken spirits and imperfections."

Fr. Dajao also feels the same way.

"I have learned to paint by looking at and imitating the works of the masters," he said. "I am not a master painter and my portraits of Christ will not teach you to become artists. But if you allow Christ to look at and speak to you through these portraits, then perhaps you will learn something about the most important art, the art of prayer.

"In His Time, Servant of All II," will hit the market this week. It feature songs, prayers and meditations of leading artists such as Zsa Zsa Padilla, Lani Misalucha, Pops Fernandez, Janno Gibbs, Eddie Mercado, John Lesaca, Rica Peralejo, Rannie Raymundo, Lance Raymundo, Ralion Alonzo and Dulce.



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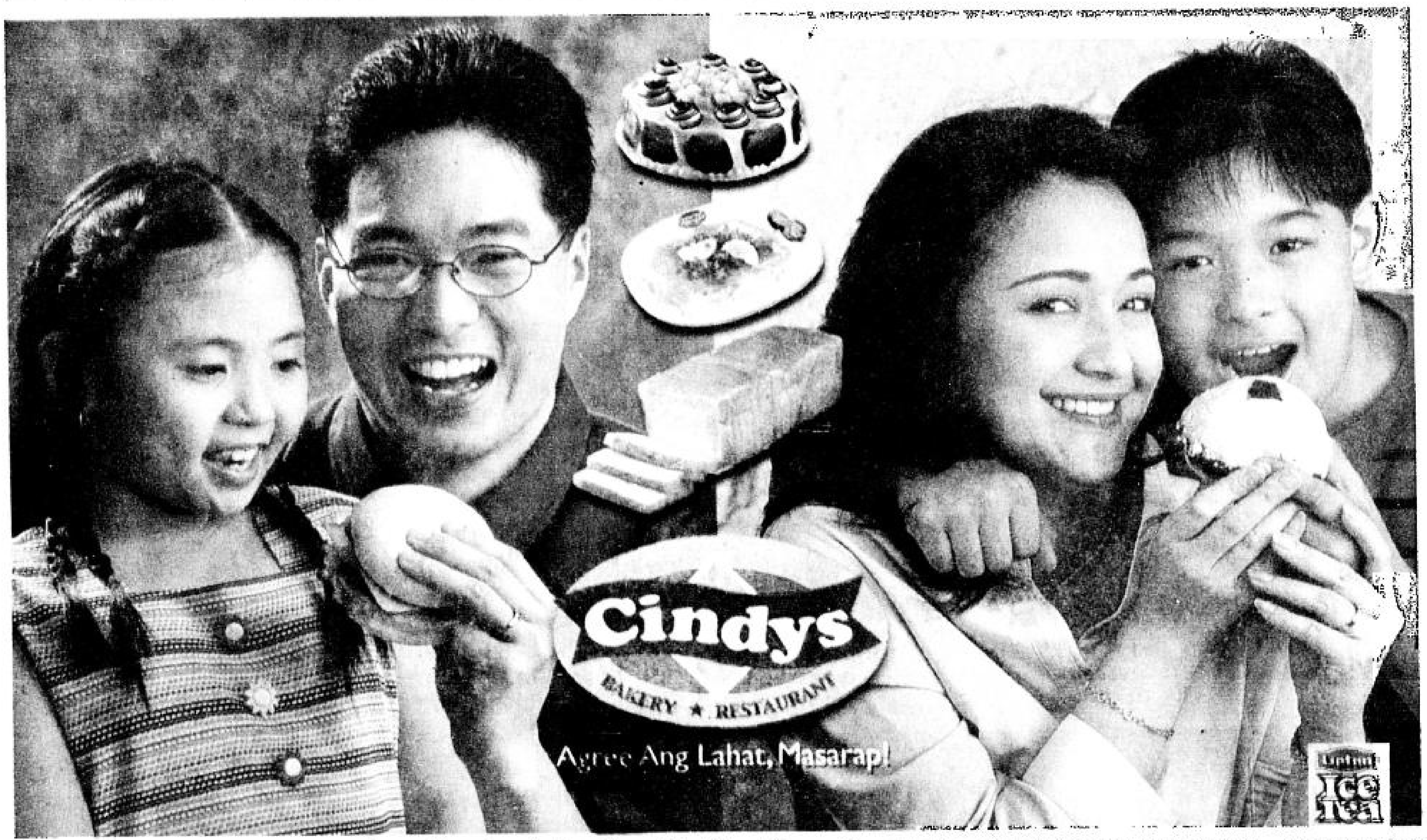

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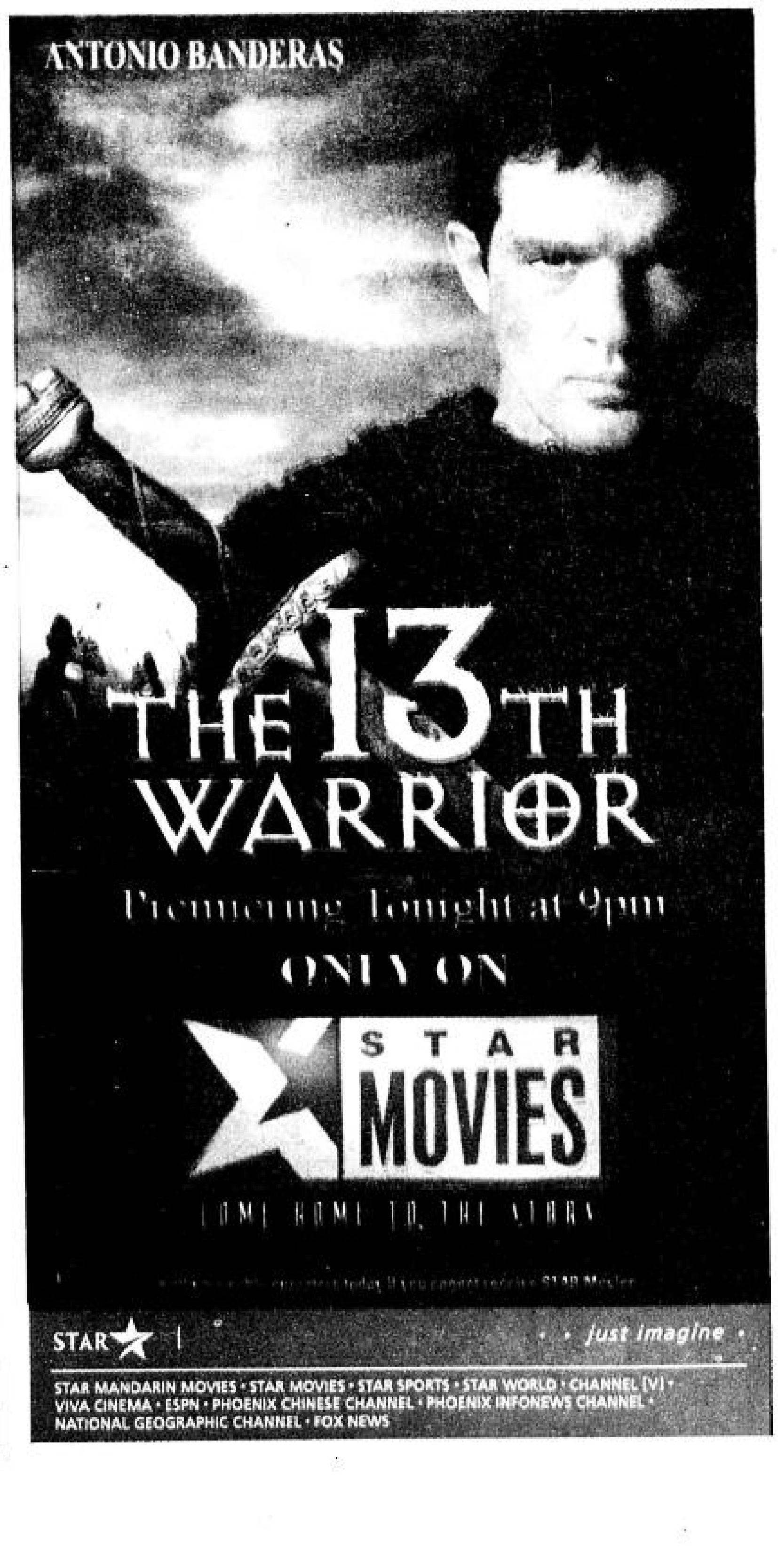

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Eyewear venture assures undergrad of black bottomline

BY MARGIE QUIMPO-ESPINO

THE FIRST and the last time Ricco Ocampo took out a business loan was in 1996 when he borrowed P2.5 million from a bank using a property in Green Meadows as collateral.

He used the amount to set up i2i, the eyewear shop that has proliferated all over the country, and stage his comeback as a successful entrepreneur.

The earnings from i2i generated the revenues that enabled Ocampo to expand into several other ventures. Today all his ventures generate sales of over P600 million a year. His initial capital of P2.5 million has generated sales of more than 240 times.

From the i2i revenues, Ocampo and wife Tina Maristela have set up Anonymous, what they call their lifestyle store and, The Kitchen, an "Anonymous type of restaurant." The revenues also helped finance the expansions of "Fish," a clothes shop geared toward teens, The "Black Shop" which Maristela started and caters to the working ladies aged 25 to 40.

That Ocampo, a college dropout, was able to build many successful businesses, is a surprise considering he himself admits he is disinterested in numbers (and is bad with them) and he detests signing checks. He used to sign checks without reading what they were for.

Wife Tina, who says she has the opposite personality of Ocampo, proudly says she has already "trained" Ocampo to carefully check out each check voucher placed in front of him.

He still dislikes signing checks as it bogs him down for half a day each twice a week but he knows this is a necessary part of running a business.

On the whole he describes himself as "very conservative." He says their earnings are split in half—50 percent is ploughed back into expansions and the other half is taken out. The amount taken out is saved or used to create new ventures.

The challenge

The 37-year old-Ocampo says he wants to diversify further and "match our bread-and-butter" businesses. But he is firm that they will not expand via loans, but through self-generated income.

In the mid-90s, Ocampo, known to be the more flamboyant partner, if not the face behind Sari-Sari, the clothes and apparel shop known for its trendy window displays, quit the partnership and was left with MIX, the uppity shop that sells designer stuff like Anne Klein shoes and branded clothes.

MIX was set up during a period when many foreign brands were entering the country largely because of the strength of the peso which stood at around P26:$1 for a long time.

Unfortunately, after expanding MIX to seven outlets and racking up sales of up to P300 million, the peso value dropped significantly versus the dollar, rising to the near P35 levels. With higher costs, demand was slowing down.

Ocampo had a year to turn it around or suffer financial woes. He opted to cut losses and within a year closed six of the outlets. He now maintains only one in Greenbelt, but adds that they will soon open a second store.

When he cut his losses, he had to fit 25 to 30 people in a 100-square-meter office at the Tektite. While wife Tina was doing okay with her The Black Shop, Ocampo took the hit personally and decided with a vengeance to start a new business that would be as successful, if not more successful, than Sari Sari when he was with the group.

The first step was to trim his 175-pound frame by eating right and going to the gym everyday.

i2i's start

How was it that a man like Ocampo, who met success, and was always traveling first class, thought of putting up a shop that sells affordable eyewear?

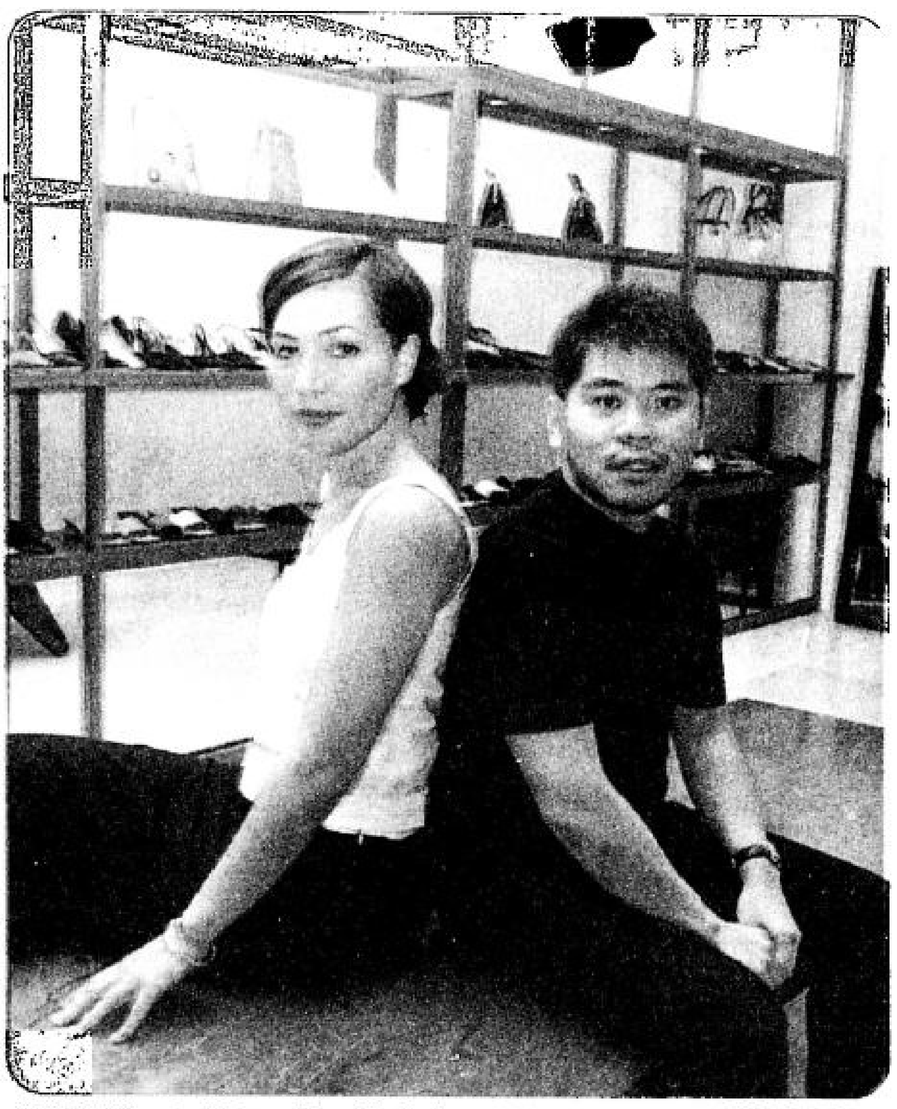
"I used to wear glasses then and I went to all the eyewear stores and nobody was selling eyeglasses for less than P300," he recalls. The cheapest he would find was P500 a pair.

He wondered how the not so rich could afford to buy eyeglasses. He thought about how big a market there was for shades because the Philippines is a tropical country. It was a coincidence that he stumbled upon i2i in one of his trips to New York and immediately set about bringing the line here.

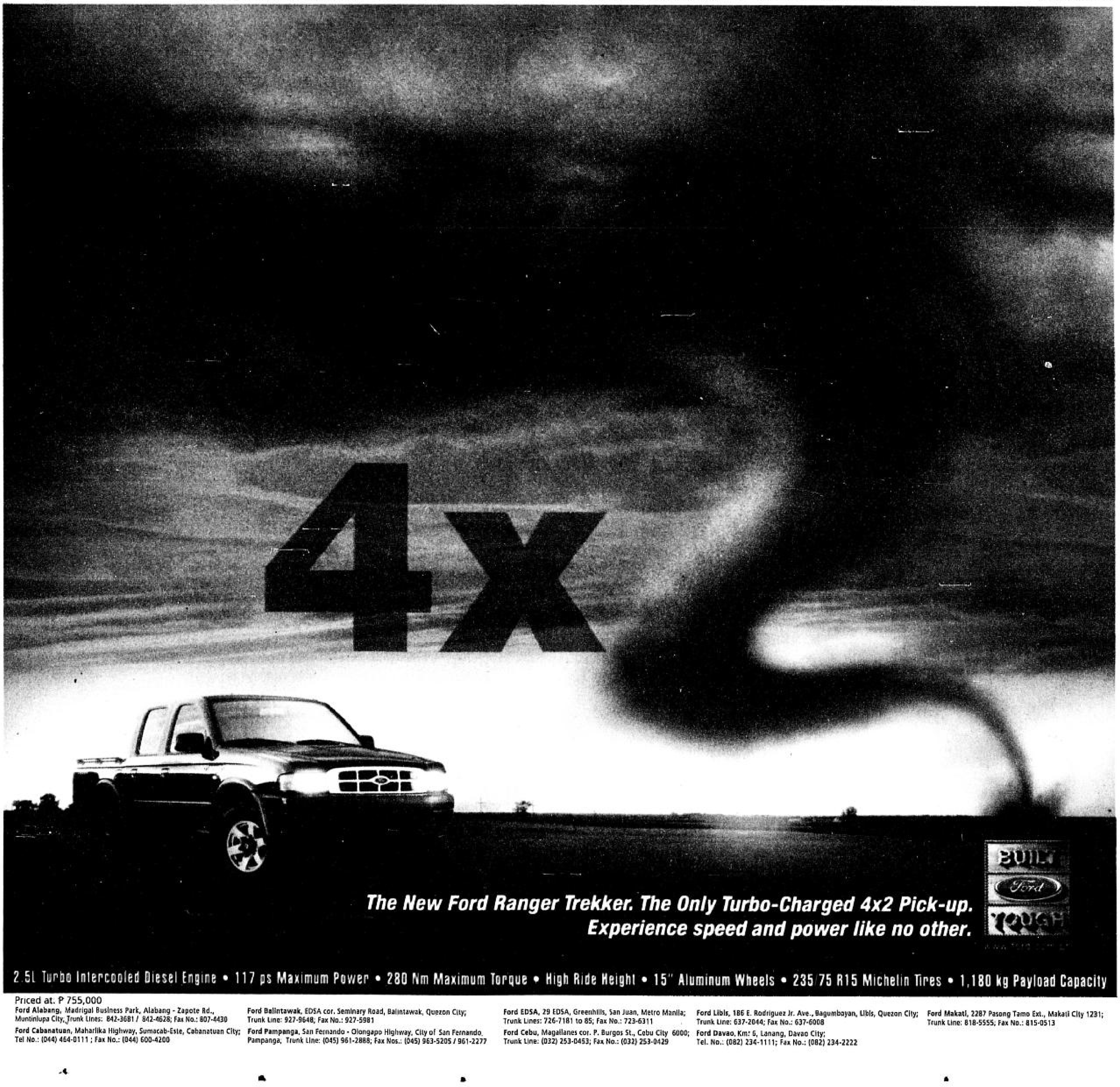
The P2.5-million loan was used to pay for inventory and open the first outlet. In a few months, the second outlet was immediately opened. Today, i2i has 98 outlets, half of

EYEWEAR/ B3

> Using his house as collateral, he took out a loan to put up a venture which gave rise to several more



HUSBAND and wife team Tina Maristela and Ricco Ocampo. ROGER CARPIO



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Poetry should have a place in corporate board room

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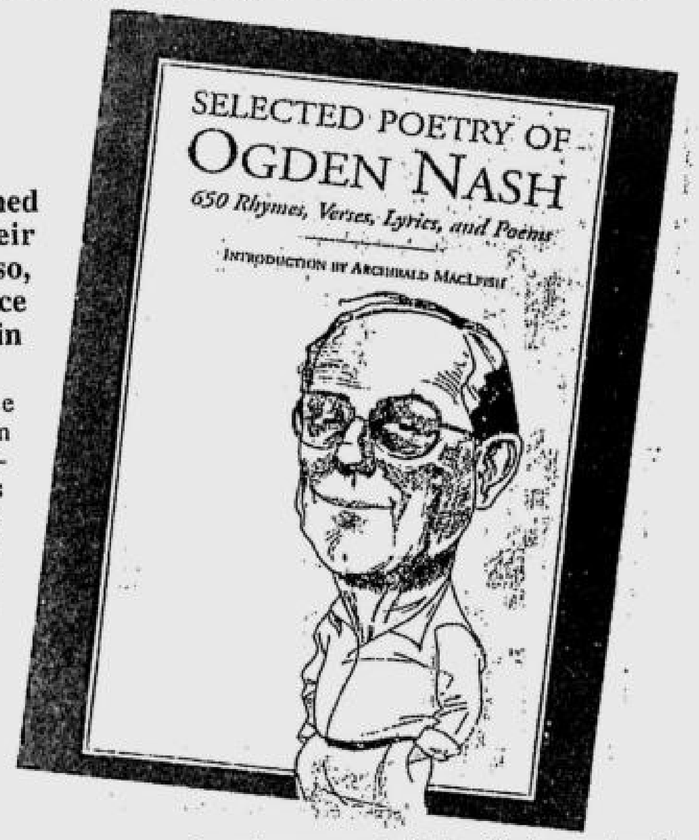
"Selected Poetry of Ogden Nash"
Black Dog & Leventhal Publishers

BY DANTE M. VELASCO

EXECUTIVE READ


SELECTED POETRY OF
OGDEN NASH
650 Rhymes, Verses, Lyrics, and Poems
INTRODUCTION BY ARCHIBALD MACLEISH

POETRY was once defined as "best words in their best order." If that is so, then poetry should have a place in the executive suites and in corporate board rooms.

We hear businessmen conclude their speeches with a line from Robert Frost . . . "miles to go before I sleep." Our bag of phrases is also filled with Shakespearean lines like "To be or not to be; that is the question" to speak of a certain quandary. Or, when we give a gift we quote Thomas Gray with this: "Not what we give but what we share/ For the gift without the giver is bare." Even some popular songs have been accorded the classification of poetry, especially some songs of the Beatles.

These tell us only one thing. We have uses for poetry to express something deeper than prose; to give "soul" to a piece: or to add intensity to a speech. What's noticeable, though, is that our poetry collections date back to the Elizabethan Age and earlier ages.

The advent of free verse and the use of allusions (that only students of poetry understand), plus the loading of symbols (that cascade from a literary heritage of myths and imagery)—have turned off many of us. Poetry has become confined to those in the literary circle, and we are outside that circle.

Once in a rare while, a book of poetry comes along to beckon us to become interested again in verse—or versification, if you wish. This poetry collection—subtitled "650 Rhymes, Verses, Lyrics, and Poems"—is one such book. Ogden Nash was called by literary critics as the "master of light verse," but respected poet Archibald MacLeish takes issue with them saying, "light verse carries a demeaning connotation. It implies that the art of poetry has its Macy's basement where a kind of second-rate excellence is the criterion."

So, when we read Ogden Nash we get real poetry that we can identify with. MacLeish says, Nash used the light verse form to "enable him to examine the inanities of his time in a colloquial language most men understood."

Writing about what we read in the papers, the poet says:

> I find it very difficult to enthuse over the current news.
> "There has never been an era when so many things were going so right for so many of the wrong persons."

He also has something to say about the banking industry's policy of lending money to those who don't need the money.

Most bankers dwell in marble halls, And particularly because they observe one rule which woe betides the banker who fails to heed it,

> "Which is you must never lend any money to anybody unless they don't need it."

If you want some witty one liners in verse, the book of 682 pages offers a treasure. For example, on "Common Sense," Nash gives his astonishing insight about those who have mastered the art or evasion of blame throwing:

> Why did the Lord give us agility
> "If not to evade responsibility?"

We can also identify with him about our daily complaints in the workplace, especially those bosses we would rather not see:

> "When people aren't asking questions/
> They're making suggestions/
> And when they're not doing one of those/
> They're either looking over your shoulder/
> or stepping on your toes/
> And then as if that weren't enough to annoy you/
> They employ you"

POETRY/ B4

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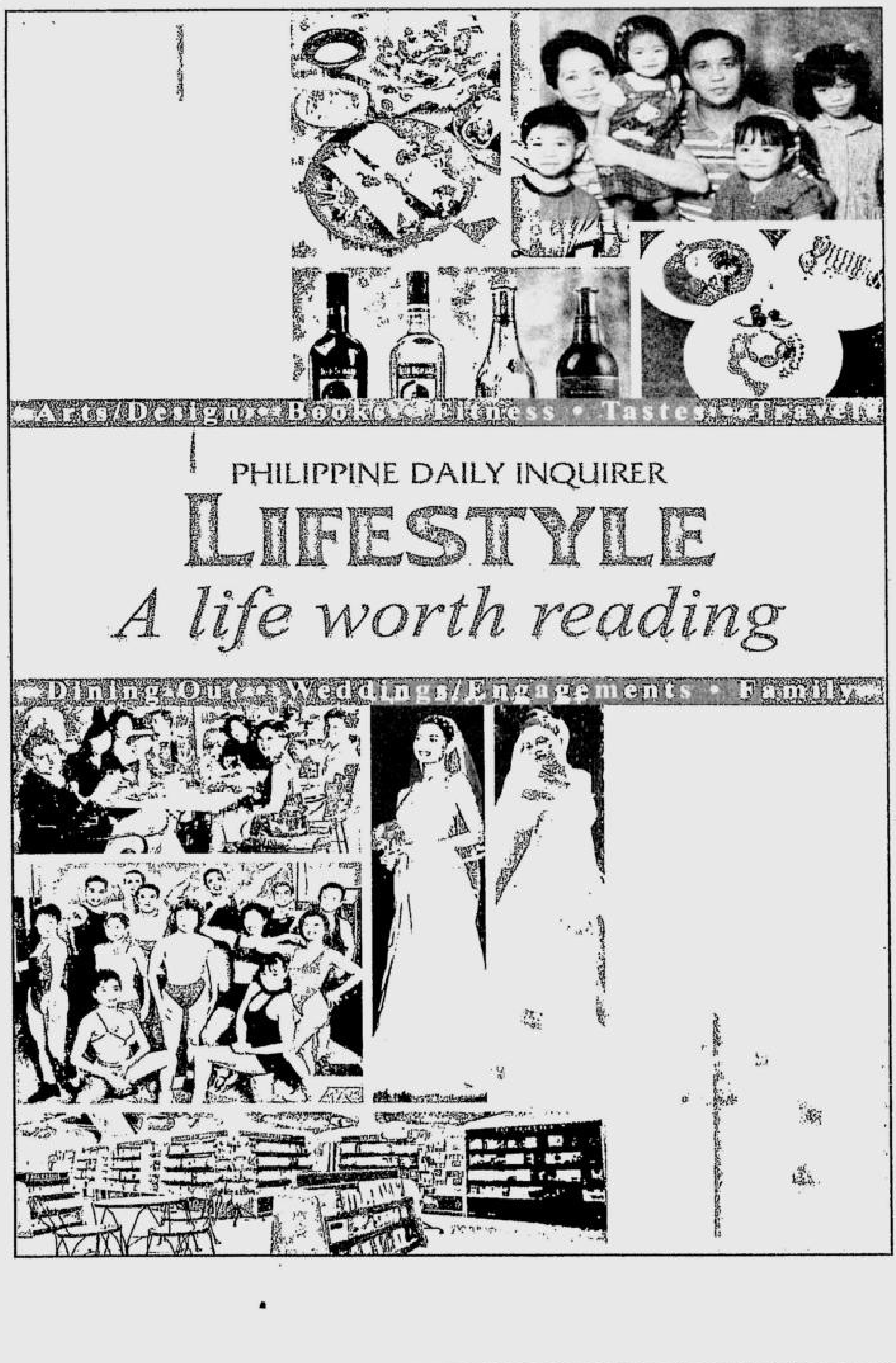

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AYALA CORPORATION

NOTICE OF REGULAR ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the regular annual meeting of stockholders of **AYALA CORPORATION** will be held at Onstage Greenbelt, 2nd Level Greenbelt Mall, Ayala Center, Makati City, on **Friday, 20 April 2001** at **9:00 a.m.** with the following

AGENDA

1. Determination of Quorum
2. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting
3. Annual Report
4. New Business
   - 4.1 Ratification of all Acts and Resolutions of the Board of Directors and of the Executive Committee adopted during the preceding year.
5. Election of Directors
6. Election of Auditors and Fixing of their Remuneration
7. Consideration of such other business as may properly come before the meeting
8. Adjournment

Only stockholders of record at the close of business on 07 March 2001 are entitled to notice of, and to vote at, this meeting. As per By-laws, the Stock and Transfer Books of the Corporation will be closed from 30 March to 20 April 2001, inclusive. For your convenience in registering your attendance, please bring your Stockholders' Identification Card and present the same at the registration desk at the entrance lobby of Onstage Greenbelt. Registration will start at 7:00 a.m.

Makati City, 01 March 2001.

FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Mercedita S. Nolledo
MERCEDITA S. NOLLEDO
Senior Managing Director
& Corporate Secretary

Taking a master's degree in the UK

AMONG today's graduates poised for a job and a career, a baccalaureate is not enough. The increasingly competitive workplace often demands a master's degree. Graduates always cite the extensive experience gained from the numerous interactions inside and outside class.

The bad news is that a master's degree, especially a foreign one, can be very expensive, not to say time consuming.

Here's the good news: anyone interested in taking a master's degree can do so in just one year in the UK.

A master's in the UK is an intensive 12-month study, comprising of large lectures, quality teaching in small seminar groups, and individual tutoring. There will also be case studies, simulations and projects.

A general master's in business includes subjects like finance, marketing, organizational behavior, and corporate strategy. Specialist courses may focus on agribusiness; oil, gas, or water management; or small business management.

The UK has a large number of schools with master's programs. These schools normally have career management centers that provide students with expert advice on jobs. They also have networks with specific employers and past students who may be able to help with job search.

For more information on UK master's programs call 723-2207, 723-2202, 727-0924 and 727-0930.

Eyewear . . .

(From page B1)

which are owned by the Ocampos. The rest are held by franchisees.

Anonymous, which sells such a variety of goods from pails to staplers to underwear and wasabi-covered peanuts, has 48 outlets, 22 of which are owned by the husband and wife team and the rest are owned by franchisees.

The Kitchen is a tie-up with restauratuer Ricky Dee, who has been Ocampo's friend for years.

At the end of the month, he is set to open Mangan, a Filipino café, that will serve Kapampangan dishes with several coffee choices. His partners here are Dee and Cabalen owner Maritel Nievera.

Advertising non-believers

Ironically, despite their expansions, both husband and wife do not believe in advertising.

"I do not believe in advertising. I believe in another way—that the product should stand out," he says.

Maristela adds that "we believe more in word of mouth."

But Ocampo admits they believe in public relations which is actually part of marketing. The duo are constantly in the papers talking about their latest ventures or being featured attending social events.

"When you are talking to a writer, you are able to bare more of your soul," is how Maristela puts it.

Work style changes

The husband and wife used to spend nearly 24 hours of their time together but demands of parenting (they have four children) made them decide to semi-retire Maristela last September. She does not go to the office anymore and is in charge of checking out the outlets and merchandising.

Even Ocampo has changed his work style a bit. He holds some of his meetings at home and there are times when he has the work sent to his house instead of going to the office.

But the couple travel 14 times a year including a whole month for summer vacation and the rest for merchandising and keeping up with the trends abroad.

Tina says "business doesn't stop. If there is a scheduled trip, we do the planning ahead for the vice president to implement when we are gone. We communicate daily."

Constantly moving

Ocampo is not one to literally keep still. He is always moving and thinking of new ventures. In fact in their 12 years of marriage they have leased, bought and sold seven houses. He says he cannot stay in one house longer than four years (less, actually, based on our computations).

He claims the only second loan he acquired is to finance a house he bought in Makati recently but he says it is a personal loan. He says perhaps he will stay in the new house longer.

One thing about him he says is he has no attachment to things (including businesses) which made it easy for him to just close most of the MIX outlets.

No sure-fire formula in buying

Ocampo admits not everything he touches turns out to be a winner.

"I made mistakes too," he says.

Other than closing down MIX in the late '90s, he also closed his shoe store called "S" in 6750 along Ayala Avenue and in Galleria. He also remembers ordering 10,000 juicers to sell in Anonymous thinking Filipinos would think like him, a health buff, and make sure they have one in the house.

He laughs that he ended up with 8,000 juicers in the stock room.

He admits there are no sure-fire formulas in merchandising.

"Who would have thought that we would sell 3,000 *tabo* (dipper) in one month; or 4,000 fly swatters?" he says in amazement.

As to when he will stop, he cannot say.

Maristela says she hopes one day, one of their children will take over. Already they are involving the children in merchandising, allowing them to decide on some stuff to sell.

But Ocampo admits he would still want to be building new ventures. What he wants to do now is learn to cook and open more restaurants.

Husband and wife are also cooking up a big venture which they say they will announce in time.

Lady execs talk about politics, stress, fitness

SEN. Loren Legarda-Leviste confided she wanted to be a bank executive when she was a young girl. Her interests eventually led her to the male-dominated fields of broadcast journalism and politics.

CITIBANK'S senior women executives, led by the Consumer Division's Country Business Manager Nina Aguas, recently gathered at its retail banking headquarters to break new ground with the launching of "Women in the Citi."

Envisioned as a series of talks and activities for Citibank's lady executives, "Women in the Citi" will cover a range of topics - from managing stress to fitness to parenting. Topics are chosen to appeal to the varied interests of the bank's women officers.

With "Women in the Citi," Aguas hopes to provide the ideal forum to empower the bank's women employees to realize their full potentials within the organization, in part by drawing support from a network of other successful women. Aside from career development, "Women in the Citi" will also touch on issues on home and family, in recognition of another equally important facet of a bank officer's life.

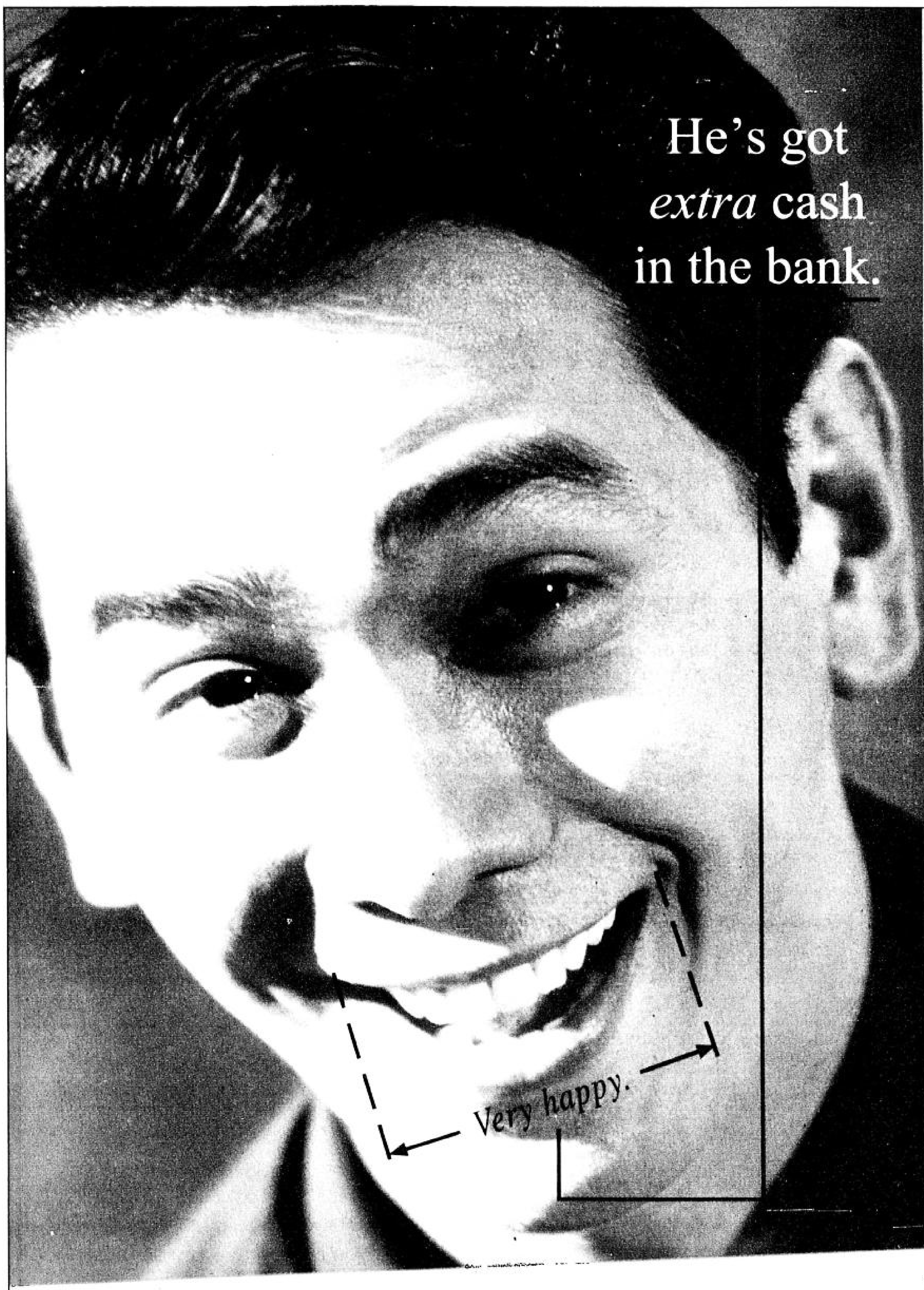
The affair drew over 200 Citibank officers who welcomed guest speaker Senator Loren Legarda-Leviste. The Senator began her talk by confessing that, when she was a young girl, she aspired to be a bank executive someday. However, her interests led her in the male-dominated fields of broadcast journalism and politics.

Over two-and-one-half hours, the Senator shared the many challenges she had to overcome in her two careers. The Senator willingly answered the wide-ranging questions posed to her during the open forum.

The idea for "Women in the Citi" was born following the success of the Inaugural Women's Summit hosted by Citigroup in New York last September. About 250 senior women officers from Citigroup's businesses worldwide, including Aguas, attended the Summit.

Citibank N.A., Philippines' "Women in the Citi" kick-off also featured two other women speakers.

Maribel Descaller, president of TEODORA, introduced her civic-oriented, non-profit organization that is working for women empowerment. As part of its advocacy work, TEODORA is actively involved in Congress to ensure proper representation in a number of women's issues.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Reforms, changing fads fuel India hotel boom

NEW DELHI—There is a hotel construction boom underway in India.

To appreciate the scale, a visitor has to travel no further than several hundred meters from Bombay's international airport.

Six new luxury hotel projects are in various stages of construction within a kilometer of the airport, all aimed at wooing the traveler flying into India's financial capital.

The clatter of excavators and drilling machines compete with shrill screeches of aircraft tires as hundreds of laborers toil day and night inside barricaded sites to put up spanking new structures.

The building boom will add 4,000 rooms over the next five years just in Bombay, more than doubling the number of luxury hotel rooms in the nation's financial and entertainment capital.

The Hyatt, Rennaissance and the Marriot are all homing in on Bombay, where the high-end hotel market has been long dominated by the Taj group of the Indian Hotels & Co. Ltd. and the Oberoi Group.

At last count, about 21 branded hotels were under construction in various parts of Bombay, a boom fuelled by the swelling number of business travelers scouting for opportunities in the fast liberalizing economy.

And it's not just Bombay where hotel construction is booming.

"An amazing 110 hotel properties are coming up throughout India in the next four years. And we are only talking about branded ones," Manav Thadani, managing director, India, of global hospitality industry consultancy firm, HVS International, told Reuters.

The new hotels will add nearly 10,000 rooms, one-third of India's existing room capacity in the branded hotel category.

The country has caught the fancy of leading international groups such as Marriott International, Accor, Carlson Hospitality, Hyatt, Hilton and Le Meridian, all of which are expanding their presence in India.

The allure

Driving the boom is a surge in business travel and the changing lifestyles of a spendthrift middle-class population.

"With the opening up of the economy, India, with the world's second-largest population, offers a huge market with its 100 to 150 million-strong middle class," says Thadani.

Increasing fights into India and an expected boom in airline crew business is another drawing factor.

Minneapolis, US-headquartered Carlson Hospitality, which operates the Radisson, Regent, Country Inns and Suites brands, has built four hotels in under two years.

It plans to open 17 more in the next five years, including four in calendar year 2001 and three more in 2002.

Industry officials say the Hyatt has 6 to 7 properties under development, the Marriott three and Le Meredian three to four.

Carlson, unlike many of the other groups, is targeting smaller cities which have no quality accommodation, but whose economic potential is attracting business travelers.

"The business traveler is moving to explore. During this period, there's a lot of activity. They have to come to metros, get to cities, get approvals from state governments," said K.B. Kachru, vice president of Carlson Hospitality.

Indeed, much of the activity is in smaller cities such as Bangalore, Hyderabad, Cochin and even small towns like Jalandhar.

Indians are changing

Some 285,608 foreign tourists arrived in India in January, up 14 from a year earlier. In calendar 2000, 2.62 million tourists visited the country, up 5.7 percent from the previous year.

But it's not just foreign travelers who are fuelling the hotel building boom. India's growing middle class is as well.

"Take for example our TGIF (Thank God It's Friday) restaurants. Earlier people would not have imagined we would do 700 people a day in one restaurant, especially where Indian food is not served," said Carlson's Kachru.

Indians are also travelling more for sightseeing and pleasure—a change from the past when a vacation meant packing up bags and travelling home to visit grandma.

Flights have increased and the domestic tourist is spending more. Not surprisingly, luxury hotels, for long the preserve of the corporate traveller and foreign tourists, are striving to woo domestic tourists with attractive packages.

Local chains get into act

Not to be outdone, homegrown chains too are expanding.

The two big chains, the Taj group with 57 hotels and the Oberoi Group with 32, are building or acquiring new properties.

Both are considering buying some properties of state-owned hotel firms India Tourism Development Corp. and Hotels Corp. of India, industry officials say.

Reuters

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Poetry should have a place in corporate board room

(From page B2)

The poet worked as an advertising executive before he went full time versifying.

Our library is full of books on management, marketing, production, strategic thinking, and business quotes. It's time there is a book of poetry to serve as an oasis in a desert of prose. This one (which I bought at Page One in Rockwell Center) deserves to be there. You see, it also has witty lines on personal relationships, like this one:

"To keep your marriage brimming,
With love in the loving cup,
Whenever you're wrong, admit it;
Whenever you're right, shut up."

Poetry has a way of perking up an otherwise prosaic existence in the business world. Why? The answer will require another piece of writing. Sometimes, we really cannot explain everything. Even Ogden Nash cannot explain the existence of this flying object:

"God in His wisdom made the fly/ And then forgot to tell us why."

(Feedback: dantemv@i-next.net.)

Four share 10 secrets to succeed in business

(From page B12)

sine? Italian pasta? Name it, I can learn it," she confidently says, laughing.

Always provide quality service. Never underestimate the power of networking because clients will spread the word on the good service that you do. For Leongson, it was mainly referrals that brought in her clients—a friend recommended her to a friend, who was getting married, who soon contracted her services not only for the wedding but for an upcoming baptism as well. And the word continues to get around.

Save up. You have to set aside a percentage of your profits to augment your finances during any crisis and to use for the expansion of your business. Reyes says he plunked down some P50,000 of his savings so he could purchase a building and a lot on Aurora Boulevard, a site which proved to be strategic for his business.

Give back. Salas says she derives joy in knowing she helps create jobs and uplift the lives of fellow *kapampangans.* "I joined an organization where I share my exporting know-how with budding entrepreneurs after Mt. Pinatubo struck. This has resulted in the birth of 10 independent exporters in our city," she shares.

As Reyes puts it, "I have received a lot of blessings from the Lord probably because I know how to share. I use my heart in doing business, because if people sense that you are kind, they will support you wholeheartedly." Take that from one who has engineered a series of livelihood programs for the poor and garnered support from various prominent personalities.

Serdef, the sister foundation of the UP Institute for Small-Scale Industries, was established to mobilize private-sector resources for the growth and development of small enterprises. It was established in 1976, a time when SME development was largely a government effort. From the very beginning, the Serdef and UP ISSI formed a strategic alliance to stimulate the creation of new businesses and the improvement of existing ones. Says Serdef trustee Nelia Gonzalez: "This forum recognizes that nearly every other person has a business idea in various stages of being actualized. We hope the experiences shared will give would-be entrepreneurs a little shove toward making the entrepreneurial plunge."

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South Luzon: Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Pateros, Taguig, Parañaque, Las Piñas and Palawan

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We take pride in being ranked by the ***Far Eastern Economic Review*** as the ***No. 1 in OVERALL LEADERSHIP*** among the Top 10 Philippine companies doing business in Asia. The 1998 PMAP ***"EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR"*** awardee. **Jollibee** was also cited as ***No. 1 in "Innovative in Responding to Customer Needs" and No. 1 in "Company Others Try to Emulate."***

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AREA MANAGERS (AM) - For South Luzon

Reporting directly to the Regional Manager, the successful candidates will be responsible for the supervision of Jollibee stores—directing and assisting stores assigned within his/her area to achieve targeted objectives. Male/Female; Not over 40 years old; Bachelor's degree holder in HRM, Food Nutrition, Business Management or any related discipline; With at least 5 years Managerial experience in food service, retail business, pharmaceutical or other service-oriented establishments.

SP ARCHITECT (SPA) - For South Luzon (Main office based)

Reporting to the Project Manager, the successful candidate is tasked to come up with store schematic plans in accordance with company standards, continuously improve them, and conceptualize designs or layouts to satisfy the changing business requirements. Male, 25 to 35 years old, BS Architecture graduate, preferably license, minimum of 5 years experience in architectural design and detailing, proficient in the use of Autocad, articulate, hardworking, willing to work flexible hours.

MARKETING SERVICES OFFICER (MSO) - For South Luzon (Main office based)

Responsible for the implementation of regional marketing activities; i.e., new store openings, corporate and regional special projects, regional data base development, and training support for the Basic Marketing Training Program (BMTP) as Marketing Line Trainer. We need graduates of Marketing, Mass Communications or Management with at least 3 years supervisory experience in the marketing field in a service-oriented industry; Male/Female; Not more than 28 years old; Creative; Outgoing; With above average oral and written communication skills; Willing to work long hours and on different schedules.

STORE MANAGERS (SM)

Responsible for the over-all management of the store to achieve targeted goals and maintain efficiency and effectiveness of store operations. Male or female; Not over 35 years old; Bachelor's degree holder, with at least 3 years managerial and/or 5 years supervisory experience in food service, manufacturing, retail business, hospitals, or other service-oriented establishments and willing to undergo hands-on training.

MANAGEMENT TRAINESS (OMT)

College gradutes with at least 1 to 3 years supervisory experience in food-service or service-oriented establishments. We also welcome fresh graduates with above-average scholastic records.

STORE MARKETING OFFICERS (SMO)

The SMART officer is responsible for planning and implementation of store marketing projects and activities that will: a) increase store sales and b) make service to our customers more personalized. For the position, we need a college graduate, preferably in Mass Communication, Marketing, Management, or any related discipline. He or she should be creative and outgoing, and should possess good human relations and above-average oral and written communication skills.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS (AA-Store based)

The Administrative Assistant is responsible for the proper handling of the store funds which include but not limited to the following: Master and Drawer Change Fund, Petty Cash Fund, Cash Sales, Check Disbursement, Computation of manhours and other. For the position, we need single, graduates of business courses preferably Accounting or Management; Not over 25 years old; With at least 6 months work experience in the same field.

Applicants must be willing to work on shifting schedules. Successful candidates will undergo a comprehensive training program designed to develop technical and managerial competencies. Hired applicants can look forward to an above industry compensation package, a rewarding career and growth opportunities.

Qualified applicants may send their updated resumé, photocopy of Official Transcript of Records and recent ID photo to:

Human Resources Division
(Please indicate if North or South Luzon)
JOLLIBEE FOODS CORPORATION
Jollibee Centre Building
San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City

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Qualified applicants may send their comprehensive resumé together with 2x2 pictures & other documents to **Human Resource Section, Taian (Subic) Electric Inc. SBIP-I Argonaout Hiway Cor. Braveheart St., SBFZ 2222** Tel. No. (047) 252-1668, 1669 Fax No. 252-1661 or thru SBMA Labor Center SBFZ 2222

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ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANT

Working for our sales and marketing office you should provide administrative as well as front-line customer service support including receptionist duty. Applicants should be female preferably single from 24 to 28 years old and with pleasing personality. She should be a college graduate of any business course with an accounting background as an advantage. She should be good in oral and written communication skills, and can work with minimal supervision. A good knowledge in MS Office applications is a plus factor.

Interested parties are requested to send their comprehensive resumes with 2X2 photo attached to:

Country Manager
SNF Floerger Philippines, Inc.
Unit 1608, Richville Corporate Tower, 1170 Alabang Zapote Road,
Madrigal Business Park, Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City 1780
Fax : 826 - 0830
Email : jdingeniero@pacific.net.ph
Website : www.snf.fr

NAUTICOS MARINE EXPLORATION, INC.
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SECOND/THIRD OFFICER - Male, between 30-40 years old. Must be a licensed Second/Third Officer and a graduate of a reputable nautical school. Must have a good navigational skills and can operate tenders and fast rescue craft. To be assigned onboard a research boat.

FOURTH ENGINEER - Male, between 30-40 years old. Must be licensed Fourth Engineer and a graduate of reputable marine school. Must have solid experience, preferably in Yanmar and Hanshin engines. To be assigned on board a research boat.

Those selected will be assured of a good and competitive compensation package. Qualified candidates may please handcarry or send their curriculum vitaé with 2x2 ID picture at the above-mentioned address. Short listed candidates will be notified for final interview.

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4.	Front Office Manager *(FOM)*	5 years experience
5.	F&B Manager *(F&B)*	5 years experience
6.	Chief Engineer *(CE)*	5 years experience
7.	Chief Security *(CS)*	5 years experience
8.	Night Auditor *(NA)*	2 years experience

Interested applicants may send your application letter, resume & recent 2x2 picture *(indicating CODE on the envelope)* thru:

MS. SALVE ELIZON
7F Locsin Building
Ayala Avenue, cor Makati Avenue, Makati City

(We do not accept phone inquiries)

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INTERESTED APPLICANTS MAY SEND THEIR RESUMÉ TO:
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SBIP, Phase I, Subic Bay Freeport Zone

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IN LOVING MEMORY
OF THE FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF

HON. CIRIACO *"BOBOY"* ALFELOR

Former Congressman – 4th District Camarines Sur
President – University of Northeastern Philippines (Iriga City)
- Buhi Lyceum (Buhi, Camarines Sur)

Who died in the Grace of our Lord on April 13, 2000

His bereaved wife, Dr. Alma Yorobe Alfelor, children Robert +, Madel and Reagan Gazmen, Ronald Felix, Dr. Ma. Elizabeth A. Regala, Geraldine Alvarez grandchildren, Shenen, Brendan, Brian Bob, mother Dr. Remedios R. Alfelor, brothers & sisters, in-laws, Parents-in-law Paulino and Eduvigis Yorobe, nephews, nieces, relatives mourn his passing away but celebrate his eternal rest with the Lord Jesus.

Since April 13, 2001 falls on Good Friday, masses will be offered on April 16, 2001 in the following churches:

BICOL:

Divine Mercy Chapel
UNEP, Iriga City – 9:00 AM

Our Lady of Fatima Parish
San Isidro, Iriga City – 6:00 A.M.

St. Anthony of Padua Parish
Iriga City – 6:00 A.M.

Holy Cross Parish
Nabua, Camarines Sur – 6:00 A.M.

St. Bartholomew Parish
Baao, Camarines Sur – 6:00 A.M.

Naga Cathedral
Naga City – 6:00 A.M.

Peñafrancia Church
Naga City – 6:00 A.M.

Basilica Minore
Naga City – 6:00

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church
Naga City – 6:00 A.M.

MANILA:

St. Peters Parish
Commonwealth Ave. – 6:00 A.M.

Sto. Domingo Church
Quezon Ave. – 6:00 A.M.

Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish
teacher's Village, Q.C. – 6:30 A.M.

Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Parish
UST Campus – 7:00 A.M.

Our Lady of Loreto Church
Sampaloc, Manila – 6:00 A.M.

Our Lady of Lourdes Church
Quezon City 6:00 A.M.

St. Jude Church
Malacañang – 6:00 A.M.

Hearts of Jesus & Mary Parish
West Triangle, Quezon City – 6:00 A.M.

Our Lady of Remedios Parish
Malate, Manila – 6:00 A.M.

Our Beloved

Julian Bono Yballe

Former Assemblyman (Reg. VII) "Pusyon Bisaya"
and Director of Private Schools

Died in the Grace our Lord on April 11, 2001 at the age of 92.

His bereaved wife **Luz**; children **Edgardo** and **Aurora, Sonia, Roy** and **Ellis, Douglas** and **Ched, Julius** and **Alice, Gemma** and **Robert, Lucille** and **Teddy**; grandchildren **Karen, Lawrence, Melanie, Roxanne, Lyle, Julian II, Katrina, Kristina, Douglas Jr., Monica, Kristine, Julian III, Karole, Paolo, Terrence, Ron, Mark, Robie, Lance, Carl** (†), **Armand, Karla, Maan**; and other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for him as he joins his Creator.

His remains lie in state at Mount Carmel Chapel, New Manila, Quezon City.

Interment will be announced later.

Benjamin M. Reyes

Noted Filipino violinist, husband, father

Peacefully joined his Creator on April 9, 2001.

His bereaved wife **Ma. Teresa**; children **Reyman James** and **Marnie Ella** request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at 305 Camella Avenue, Camella III-D Subd., Pulang Lupa, Las Piñas.

Interment will be on Easter Sunday, April 15, 2001, 3:00 p.m. at Golden Haven, Tramo, Las Piñas.

CARD OF THANKS

We, the family of the late

OLIMPIA AWATIN TRILLO

of Camiguin Island

who peacefully joined her Creator on April 5, 2001

wish to extend our heartfelt gratitude to those who expressed their sympathy, visited and kept vigil, and offered Masses and prayers.

May God bless you.

We announce with deep sorrow, the demise of

ATTY. AUGUSTO C. MONTILLA

who joined his Creator on April 11, 2001

He is survived by his wife **Crispina**; sons and daughter **Joaquin** and **Ilyn, Carrie** and **Joseph**; grandchildren **JJ, Keno, Rap^2, Levyjot, Kim Jestner, Ice^2**; request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Rizal Funeral Homes, Sucat, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on April 16, 2001 at 2 p.m. Mass will be held at the Chapel of Holy Cross Memorial Park. For further details, please call 0919-8163640.

LT. COL. MAXIMINO A. TIANGSING, SR. (Ret.)

Retired Military Officer (Philippine Army) from Guadalupe, Makati City met his "MAKER" the Lord our God on April 9, 2001.

His remains lie in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will take place on Monday, April 16, 2001 at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City at 10:00 AM.

Heracleo "Rocky" Gutierrez Pagtanac

(Retired Chief, CIID, Bureau of Customs)

Peacefully joined our Lord on April 11, 2001
at the age of 80.

His bereaved wife **Atty. Estrella C. Pagtanac**; daughter **Dr. Rosario P. Paguntalan**; son-in-law, **Engr. Jairus D. Paguntalan**; grandchildren **Geraldine, Janine** and **Jairus II**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Cremation will follow after the 2:00 p.m. Mass at the La Funeraria Paz today, April 15, 2001.

J. PLARIDEL A. SILVESTRE

peacefully joined his Creator on 13 April 2001
at the age of 77.

His wife **ESTHER (Nene)**; loving daughter **SYLVIA**; son-in-law **Erie Ama**; grandson **Ivan**; father **Aniceto** (†); mother **Maximina**; sisters and brothers: **Lakanbini, Flerida, Renato, Celia, Ofelia** (†), **Salvador, Aniceto Jr.** (†), and **Senen** (†); brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at chapel Q of the Loyola Memorial Chapels in Guadalupe, Makati City.

Funeral Mass will be on Tuesday, 17 April 2001 at 2:00 p.m. followed by Cremation Services at the Loyola Memorial Chapels Crematorium after the Mass.

Instead of flowers, donations to the J. Plaridel Silvestre Foundation, Inc. will be greatly appreciated.

LOURDES CABRERA YARISANTOS

June 30, 1923 - April 11, 2001

Her loving husband **Llorente (Loy)**; children **Joey** (†) and **Monette, Lee** and **Marie, Ann** and **John Dibble, Lou** and **Chito Mondoñedo**; grandchildren **Colin, Cyril** and **Casey**; **Guia, Carlo** and **Lloren**; **Miguel** and **Katrina Mondoñedo**; sisters and brothers-in-law **Concesa** and **Angel Matias, Rosario Cabrera, Paz** and **Gamaliel** (†) **Pascual**; other relatives and friends, all request the pious readers to pray for the repose of her soul.

Her remains are in Guadalupe Memorial Chapel D until Sunday and then will be transferred to Sto. Domingo Church, Quezon City, St. John's Chapel on April 16, 2001, Monday. The Funeral Mass will be on April 18, 2001, Wednesday at 1:30 PM after which interment will follow at La Loma Cemetery.

LADISLAS (Ladis) FORT DONATO

Peacefully joined his Creator on April 9, 2001
at the age of 70 in Florida, U.S.A.

His dearest wife **Gaudelia (Gigi)** their eight children and their families, and other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains will be interred on Wednesday, April 18, 2001 in the Mortuary of St. James the Great in Ayala Alabang Village after the 3 p.m. Mass at St. Francis Church Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City.

AMPARO F. TAGLE

of Imus, Cavite

Has peacefully joined her Creator on April 12, 2001.

Her husband **Atty. Maximino V. Tagle**; children **Rene** and **Dr. Angelica T. Legasto**; son-in-law **Dr. Mario Legasto Jr.**; grandchildren **Martha Therese** and **Victor Andre**; and other relatives remember her with love and request prayers for her eternal repose.

Her remains lie in state at the family residence at 312 Bayan Luma, Imus, Cavite.

Interment will be on Tuesday, April 17, 2001 at the Imus Memorial Park after a 3:30 p.m Mass at the Imus Cathedral.

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In Loving Memory
on the
1st Death Anniversary
of

Rosario Aliwalas Detabali

October 5, 1934 -- April 13, 2000
of
Qualipharma Laboratories, Philippines

Her family, friends and relatives are blessed for having her as an inspiration and are confident that she is now with her Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

"For we fix our attention, not on things that are seen, but on things that are unseen, what can be seen lasts only for a time, but what cannot be seen lasts forever."
2 Corinthians 4:18

"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you,
not as the world gives do I give to you."
John 14:27

DR. PURITA F. ASPERILLA, Ed. D.

Founding Dean, UERMMC College of Nursing
of New York City and Sta. Ana, Manila

Peacefully joined her Creator on April 4, 2001 in N.Y. City
at the age of 81.

Her brothers **JOSE** and **RAMON**; her sisters **LOURDES**, **HELEN** and **FE** ; children of her deceased brothers **CIRILO, JR.**, **MANUEL** and **LUIS**; together with all relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her cremated remains are at her residence at Sta. Ana, Manila.

Interment will be on Easter Sunday, April 15, 2001.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the UP-PGH College of Medicine Cancer Research will be appreciated.

"My soul finds rest to God alone
from Him come my salvation"

Our dearly beloved Papa

CIPRIANO "CIP" A. LLAVE

1910-2001

Now peacefully rests in the infinite grace and goodness of the Lord
on April 13, 2001 at the age of 90.

His children **Norma**, **Lauro**, **Romeo** and **Robert**; children-in-law, grandchildren and great grandchildren; other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Alphonsus Mary de Liguori, Magallanes Chapel, Makati City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, April 17, 2001 at the Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City.

QUE KIM PUO

of Mandaluyong City and San Juan

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord on April 9, 2001
at the age of 65.

His bereaved wife **LUTGARDA**; children **VERONICA**, **JENNIFER**, **GRACE**, **CHARLOTTE**, **DENYSE** and **KENNETH**; his brothers and sisters and other relatives request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at the La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Monday, April 16, 2001, 11:00 a.m. at the Chinese Cemetery.

God has called home my dear husband and our beloved Daddy

ERNESTO "NITOY" R. RIBARGOSO

President San Juan Lions Club (1996-1997)

Peacefully joined his Creator on April 12, 2001
at the age of 65.

His loving wife **LOLITA UY**; children **AMBET & RICKY REYES**, **MARISSA & BOY GONZALEZ**, **BOBBY & INA**, **JON-JON**, **LILITH & DAVID LANZA**; his mother **TERESA**; brothers and sisters **ARGIE & LYDIA**, **NELLY & FRANCIS**, **ZAIDA & TAKA**; grandchildren **PAOLO**, **CARLO**, **NICOLE**, **MICHELLE**, **GINO**, **PRINCESS**, **CHESCA**, **MACKY**, **BEA**, **MICAH & TRINA**; relatives and friends request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at the Parish Hall of Santuario de San Jose, East Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila.

Cremation will be held on April 17, 2001 at Eternal Garden Memorial Park, Balintawak, Quezon City after the 9:00 a.m. Mass in Santuario de San Jose Church.

FRANCISCA INES Vda. de INES

(widow of the late Don Jose I. Ines, Sr.)
of Sinait, Ilocos Sur & Sampaloc, Manila

peacefully joined our Lord on April 12, 2001 at the age of 86.

Her loving children: **Jose Royal & Shirley**, **Orlando**, **Melodie & Ivan**; grandchildren **R.C.**, **King P.**, **Marc** and **Jacko**, together with brother **Belong** and sister **Senyang**, relatives and friends, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the St. Mark Memorial Chapels, G. Tuazon corner Loreto Sts., Sampaloc, Manila.

INTERMENT WILL BE ANNOUNCED LATER.

"From darkness let the light shine!"
Genesis 1:3

"The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures,.....
Even though I walk through the valley of the
shadow of death, I will fear no evil,
for You are with me. Your rod and
Your staff comfort Me."

Psalm 23:1-4

ANGELA VITAL THOMPSON

Peacefully joined her Creator on April 12, 2001.

FORMAPLY INDUSTRIES, INC. - Chairman of the Board
FORMAPLY RESOURCES, LTD. - Director
FORMAX INTERNATIONAL, INC. - Director
E&V INTERNATIONAL, LTD. - Director

Her loving husband **TED**; children **BOBBY** and **TINA ERUM**, **EMIL** and **MILDRED ERUM**, **FREDDY** and **CYNTHIA ERUM**, **WENDY** and **RAY OROZCO**, **JONATHAN THOMPSON**; grandchildren **RYAN**, **ANGELA**, **CASEY**, **MELISSA**, **PAOLA** and **CARMELA**; her sister **PRISCILLA**; and brother **WALLY** and families; other relatives request her friends to pray for her happiness in heaven.

Her remains lie at Capilla de San Francisco, Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City. A memorial service will be held at the Holy Trinity Church, Forbes Park, Makati City on Tuesday, April 17, 2001 at 6:00 PM.

In lieu of flowers, donations to Frontier Ranch Philippines, Inc., a Christian youth camp, will be appreciated.

"When the pain of loss is severe, He is near to comfort.
When the burden is heavy, He is there to lean upon.
When depression darkens my soul, He touches me with eternal joy."
Book of Psalms

Dr. Leland S. Villadolid

Husband, Father, Grandfather, Physician and Professor

***Dr. Villadolid**, an expert in Endocrinology and Nuclear Medicine, Undersecretary of the Department of Science and Technology (1986-1988), passed away at 12:50 AM on April 11, 2001, at the Makati Medical Center in the Grace of our Lord and bosom of his family.*

His loving wife **Ming**; children **Connie** and **Mulo**, **Vicky** and **Don**, **Leland Jr.** and **Marivic**, **Paul**, **Katrina** and **Ito**; grandchildren **Bianca**, **Jason**, **Javi**, **Nico**, and **Pocholo**; siblings and in-laws **Lydia** and **Felix**, **Oscar** and **Alice**, **Doy** and **Naty**, **Purita** and **Pelayo** (†), **Norma** and **Celso**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

He lies in state at the Capilla del Senor, Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City.

Funeral Mass will be on Wednesday, April 18, 2001 at 9:00 AM at the Capilla del Senor, Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City.

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PDI-April 8, 15 & 22, 2001

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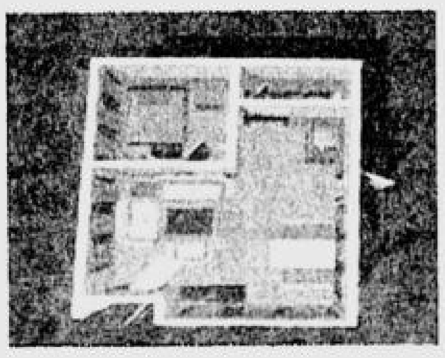

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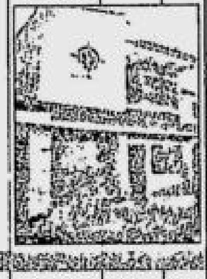

Address	Lot Area	Improvements	Flr. Area	Price
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1379 Mactan St. Baclaran	39	4-storey building with terrace	250	4.07M
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No. 9D Mozart St. Greenville Subd. Tandang Sora	42	2-storey townhouse with 3BR and 2TB	81.0	1.2M
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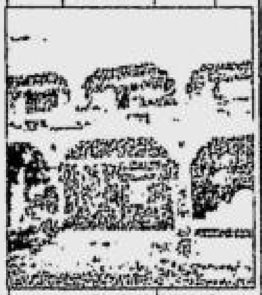

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INQUIRER

TRIVIA

By BONG BARRAMEDA

Easter bunny

Q. How did the rabbit become a symbol of Easter?

A. Actually, the Easter bunny is a hare, not a rabbit, and its selection as a holiday symbol derives from the origin of the word 'Easter.' It's from Eastre, the pagan goddess of life and spring, who was worshipped by the Anglo-Saxons through her earthly symbol, the hare, one of the most fertile members of the animal kingdom. The modern Easter chocolate bunny dates back to the 1850s in Germany. Along with bunnies, chocolatiers sold chocolate eggs, all for the main purpose of making more money for the candy industry while trumpeting bunnies as symbols of rejuvenation and renewal. The egg, of course, has signified birth and resurrection from earliest times, and in most cultures.

What's the Difference? ***Hare/Rabbit.*** Hares are larger, extremely lean and long, reaching up to 20 to 30 inches, and have ears that average eight inches long (that makes Bugs Bunny a hare). They are also distinguished by their remarkable speed and agility. *Rabbits* are shorter and cuter, averaging just a foot in length. They live in burrows rather than in the open and, unlike hares, prefer to hide rather than try to outrun a foe.

Past Forward. This day in 1947: The Philippine National Red Cross was established through Republic Act No. 95, with Aurora Aragon Quezon, wife of the late Commonwealth President Manuel L. Quezon, as president.

WORD WATCH

Euphelicia (yoo fel'i see uh) : good health from having all one's wishes granted.

PDI -- April 15, 2001

Republic of the Philippines

SOCIAL SECURITY COMMISSION

Makati City

JUANITA TANOJA,
Petitioner,

- versus - SSC CASE NO. 1-15112-2001

SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM
and MARITA TANOJA,
Respondents,
x-----------------------------------x

SUMMONS

TO: MARITA TANOJA

GREETINGS:

Your are hereby required to file within fifteen (15) days from the date of publication of this Summons with the Office of the Clerk of the Commission, 12th Floor, SSS (Makati) Building, 6782 Ayala Avenue corner Herrera Street, Makati City, your Answer to the Petition filed by Juanita Tanoja which in substance is a claim for benefit accruing from the death of SSS member Alfredo Tanoja.

You are further required to serve a copy of your Answer upon the petitioner at Bagumbayan, Tobias Fornier, Antique. You are, likewise, directed to furnish the Social Security System, thru the Senior Vice-President of the Legal and Collection, East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City, a copy of the Answer.

If you fail to answer within the time prescribed above, the Hearing Commissioner, may upon motion of the petitioner or motu-proprio, declare you in default and shall forthwith proceed to receive the petitioner's evidence ex-parte and thereafter recommend to the Commission either the granting or denial of the petition as the evidence may warrant.

SO ORDERED.

Makati City, Philippines, April 3, 2001.

SOCIAL SECURITY COMMISSION

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MANAGEMENT

(PDI -- April 15 & 22, 2001)

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Four share 10 secrets to succeed in business

NELIA Gonzalez, Angie Salas, Ricky Reyes, Tess Leongson and Johnlu Koa.

By Belinda Molina

"AGE doesn't matter if you want to start your own business," said Fortunato T. de la Peña, executive director of the Small Enterprises Research Development Foundation (Serdef), during the recent small-business forum entitled "Dynamic Enterprises: How They Started" held at the UP ISSI building to mark the 25th anniversary of the foundation.

In the forum, the audience met four individuals who ventured into entrepreneurship at different points in their lives. Angie Salas of Cane Art Philippines was forced to tread the entrepreneurial route at 23 because she had no other option for survival.

Tess Leongson of Leongson Catering Services set up shop after serving detention at the age of 27 when she went back to the "social mainstream." Johnlu Koa of The French Baker taught business at UP for 10 years before giving business a try.

Ricky Reyes, hair stylist to the rich and famous, was still in his teens when he opened his first beauty salon in what may be described as a "hole in the wall."

Diverse motivations

Just as diverse is what moved them to go into business.

Salas will tell you that it was the exigency to feed her two children that drove her into the furniture business. Her husband exchanged her and her kids for a life in the US. "I wanted to show my husband that I could raise my children on my own and be economically well off. And more importantly, I wanted him to be sorry for leaving us," says Salas.

"There is a time for everything and everything has its season" is true for Leongson who was in the dissident movement for more than 10 years. When she was released after almost a year of detention, she decided it was time to be a mother, at last, to her three children—a role she at first abdicated when she made the movement her life's priority. Her options, like Salas', were few. She did not even a high school diploma to show. She put up a food service business—not your usual restaurant in a fixed location, but a very mobile "karinderia sa kariton" patronized by students.

Koa's lightbulb appeared during a visit to Europe. "I realized after going to Europe that people queue to buy bread. And people buy bread more than once a day. So the demand was there. I was thinking that maybe we could bring this idea of buying bread more than once (a day) to the Philippines," says Koa.

Reyes states that what motivated him to open his business was a typical happening in his fatherless teenage years. "To escape humiliation, my mom had to wake me and my siblings up at 3 a.m. because she couldn't pay our house rent. I cannot count on my fingers how many times we were thrown out of houses and I promised my mother that I would build her a palace when I grew up," Reyes tearfully confesses.

Where they are now

To date, Salas' company is a thriving export furniture business with P40 million worth in assets. She was able to put her kids in the best schools in Manila and her eldest is in the US pursuing her master's degree.

Leongson now boasts of a robust catering service business with clients such as Miriam College, the House of Representatives, and various NGOs and political parties.

Koa, averaging two stores a year since 1989, now has 22 stores going on 24 this year. Reyes now has a chain of learning institutes and 20 fully owned beauty salons. "No franchise, no bank debts," he proudly says.

Field-tested wisdom

Come to think of it. Just how did these four entrepreneurs do it?

Know yourself. You have to know what you want to do so you can parlay your interest into a business venture. This way you're sure to enjoy what you're doing.

Dream. Always aim for a better life, a better business, more money. "Dreaming is free so you might as well dream big," Reyes quips. "But dreaming is not enough, you have to do something to fulfill that dream."

Work hard. Bad news for all the Juan Tamads out there, these entrepreneurs did not achieve success by waiting for things to happen. Nothing definitely beats tried and tested hard work. All four agree that they have prospered by working harder and longer.

Be original. Real antique buyers "go nuts" when they see the items in Salas' booth during international trade exhibits. "I get comments like, 'We've been looking for this kind of furniture and nobody has done it yet.' Indeed, I have done extensive travels and research in other countries and I have not seen any one doing something similar to what I'm doing." By coming up with creative designs, Salas permanently carved her niche in the furniture industry. Likewise, Koa says, "Luckily for me, I was ahead in the market. People remember you for one good thing you do. They remember me for being there when they didn't know what croissants were."

Be efficient. By being efficient, you can keep production cost low. When competition comes in, you can beat them all with your low prices. Says Koa, "Our croissant tastes just as good as the best in Paris, but ours is 1/5 the price in Paris. Every ingredient is imported but we could afford to sell low because we are efficient. Two workers in an ordinary bakery can make 200 croissants; with our investment in better machines, two people can make 10,000 croissants."

Don't stop. Keep on improving yourself and your products. Says Koa, "We improve every single thing we do. We branched into more and more products to differentiate us from the rest. For *pandesal* alone, we have six types and for loaf bread, we have 15."

Reyes for his part continues to create more programs that benefit others and says he has never been happier.

Leongson prides herself for not sticking to making *afritada* and *menudo* only. She recounts how she frequented bookstores so she could browse through cookbooks as all she learned to prepare was *nilagang kangkong* when she was in the movement. "Today, I can cook a mean lasagna, or anything the customer wants. Thai cui-

FOUR/ B4

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Sunday LIFESTYLE

CHELO BANAL-FORMOSO, Editor

THE AUTHOR

Rising from near death

BY BART GUINGONA

WHAT'S it like to die?" I've been asked. Well, it's an experience I wouldn't really recommend, but it does have its upside. There's nothing romantic about it. The sights, the sounds and the smells are neither mystical nor supernatural.

In my case, the bright blinding light didn't make its appearance. It smelled unremarkably of antiseptic and septicemia. And except for the occasional moan and groan, and oh, yes, "pink elephant," there was only the sound of the air-conditioner humming in my ears all day. But while I have to admit that it wasn't much of a sensual experience (except for the constant pain), it certainly was an emotional and a spiritual one.

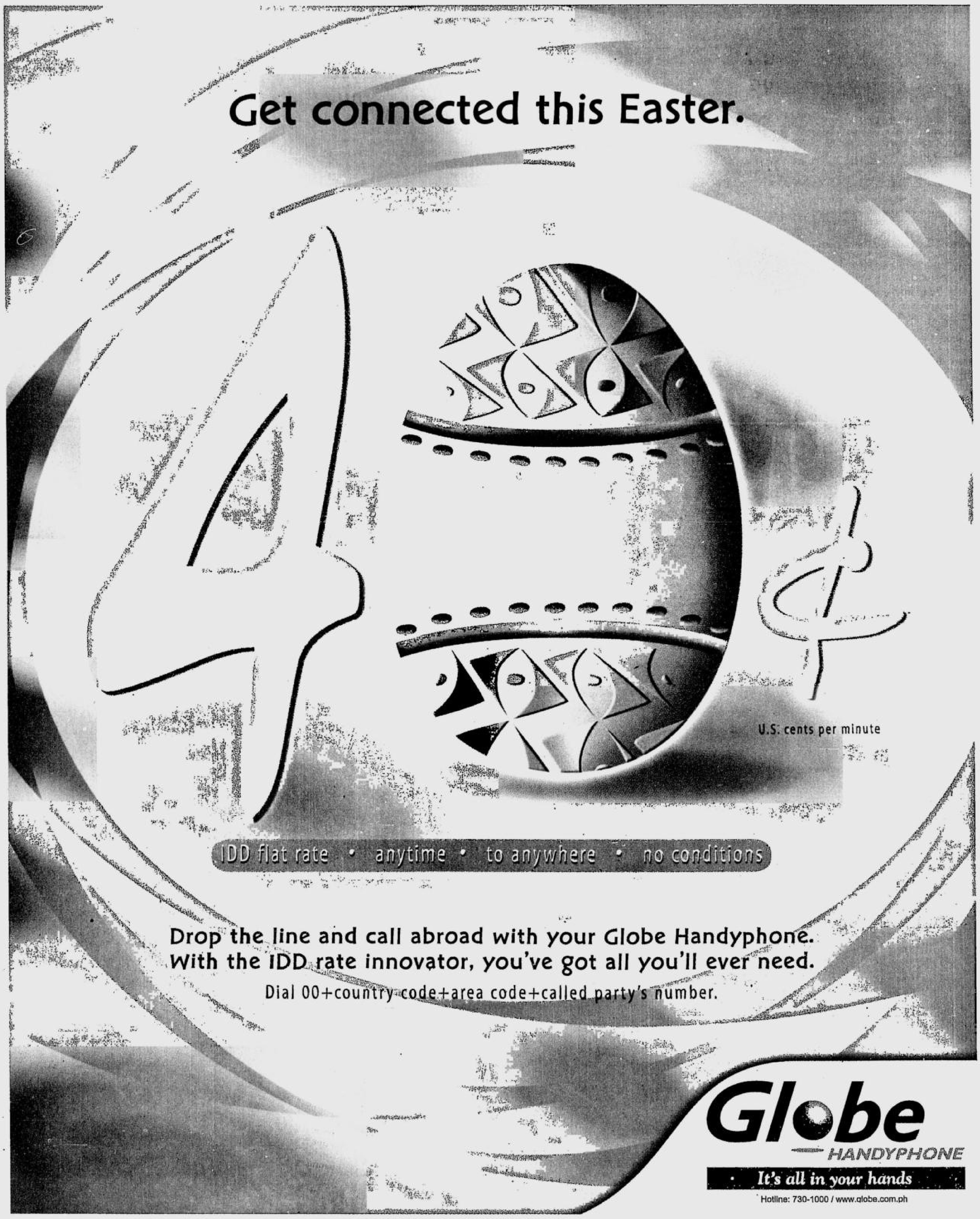
I've read in a drama book that by the time a person reaches the age of 12, he or she will have been through the gamut of the emotional spectrum. By 12, a person will have been capable of empathizing with or portraying any emotion. It is a theory that I was able to thoroughly test when I was 14.

Recurring pains

It started with severe abdominal pains. I remember writhing in class and being sent to the school clinic. It was nearly lunch break. Our car came to pick us up for lunch (we used to go home every day for lunch) and I was taken to

RISING/ p.C2

The whole experience made me several things: A glutton for knowledge . . . a frantic man in a hurry. It has also taught me to sift through my own life and make my choices on the basis of what's important rather than what's tempting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Rising from near death

(From page C1)

the emergency room of a hospital that we passed by on the way home from school every day.

Acute appendicitis. I was scheduled for surgery that afternoon. It was a routine operation, so by the next day, I was being forced to walk around the hospital room and feed on porridge and boiled chicken. On the third day, I was sent home. But the pains recurred, this time more severely, and I walked around the house hunched over like a geriatric.

My belly swelled, and after a day at home, I was taken back for the second of four operations within a two-month span. The doctor told us the operation was successful, but he obviously screwed up somewhere.

Looking back, I can't believe the incompetence of that guy. My parents should have sued, but by the end of the whole thing, they were just too battle-weary, too grateful that I was alive, to bother.

To make a long story short, two weeks after the original operation and two more operations, my parents called in another doctor. This one took one look at me and diagnosed septicemia. I was dying rapidly and had to be moved to the ICU of another hospital.

Thirst. Now *that's* such a vivid memory for me. In the ICU, they wouldn't allow me to drink water because it would make the infection spread faster. I was intensely parched, I actually dreamt I was in a desert! I dreamt I was sucking a cactus plant for water and woke up sucking the pillowcase, which was wet from a leak in the ice bag on my head.

My lips were badly chapped, cracked and bleeding. Although I couldn't see myself, I knew from the faces of my parents, my siblings, my visiting cousins, that I must have looked (and smelled) awful.

Fear and outrage

In the month I spent battling for my life in the ICU (allow me the melodramatic turn of phrase, I'm from the theater, remember?), I lost so much weight I looked quite remarkably like a Nazi war camp survivor. I had at least four tubes sticking out of various parts of my body (not a pretty sight, let me tell you).

> We all have defining moments in our lives. Mine was when they wheeled me from the ICU to the operating room

Being 14, I hated it that the ICU had no television, no radio. I couldn't read, I couldn't write. I could only stare and think. A month of my brain turning in on itself endlessly.

Forgive me for indulging in a bit of pop psychology now. It's true what they say about death coming in several psychological stages: fear, denial, resignation, etc.

The very first emotion that I felt when I realized my impending mortality was pure unadulterated fear. My family never told me anything, but I saw it in their faces. I was so scared I was even afraid to sleep (as opposed to these days when I don't ever seem to get enough of it) because it could mean never waking up.

In retrospect, that might have meant I was actually not dying yet—I had the energy to be afraid! And then there was the denial, followed by the dorky self-pitying "Why me?" stage where I had a paranoiac's sense of being conspired against by just about everything.

Which then naturally led into the "I-hate-You-God-or-whoever-for-doing-this" phase. I asked endless questions. "Why the hell do You have to be so cruel? What kind of a God are You anyway? Is this Your idea of a joke? Maybe there isn't a God and we're just evolutionary accidents..." That sort of thing.

Which naturally led into a deep and unadulterated outrage. Which then led into the "I-haven't-read-Hemingway-never-listened-to-Bach" stage. I thought about how I missed philosophy and literature altogether! I thought to myself that if I survived, I'd make sure to read Hemingway. And Fitzgerald. And Greene. I'd make sure I'd read period.

I must have been in this phase when one night, a 5-year-old girl was rushed into the ICU. She had swallowed a pingpong ball after trying to imitate a child star's magic trick on TV. Before dawn the next day, as the nurse was taking my blood pressure, there was an announcement over the PA system, "Pink elephant! Pink elephant!" The nurse rushed off, abandoning me.

After a couple of hours, when she came back to take my vital signs, I asked her what happened. She told me that "pink elephant" was their code for a cardiac arrest emergency. The young girl had died.

I was 14, but for the first time in my life, I came face to face with a selflessness I had never known. I actually prayed that night for some miracle to happen so she might live in my place. It then became so easy for me to accept what I thought was the inevitable.

Acceptance was both the happiest and saddest stage of the whole experience. I could love everyone around me—the nurses, my siblings, my parents. I could enjoy their love in return. But, sadly, I could only do it on borrowed time.

Defining moments

Of course, I see on hindsight how the experience actually formed me. I suppose we all have defining moments in our lives. For some it will have been breaking a record. Or opening on Broadway. Or winning an Oscar. Or winning an oratorical contest. Or dancing in the Senate. Moments that are worthy of an instant replay, in slow motion. Moments that shape us forever.

Mine was the moment they wheeled me from the ICU to the operating room for the fourth surgery. It was truly cinematic, with a sweeping soundtrack playing in my head. So many things fell into place at that moment. Things that I would need to write a book for to explain.

The whole experience made me several things. A glutton for knowledge and stimuli. A frantic man in a hurry. It had also taught me to sift through my own life and make my choices on the basis of what's important rather than what's tempting. Matter doesn't matter. For example, it taught me that money is important for survival but that's all it is for. The pursuit thereof must be in the fulfillment of the self.

I hate to sound mawkish and cliched or all-knowing, but there's something about dying that sort of simplifies life. It taught me the value of truth and how important it is for man to devote his life to something bigger than himself—and I mean, the bigger the better—because otherwise it's all meaningless. I learned to love the theater because it is such a metaphor for life! Two hours to say what you have to say—truthfully, economically and artistically—and then you're dead. And no matter how many times you try, you can't ever relive the moment. Time is really like water slipping through your hands. Life is so temporal.

And theater, *theater*, that's exactly what it is, too. Philosophy, the sciences, the arts, are all there to make us tread our paths more easily; it's so easy to face the worst challenges when one leans upon a bedrock of solid philosophy. I've learned not to live life as if it were a rehearsal for something bigger.

The reward is in the journey

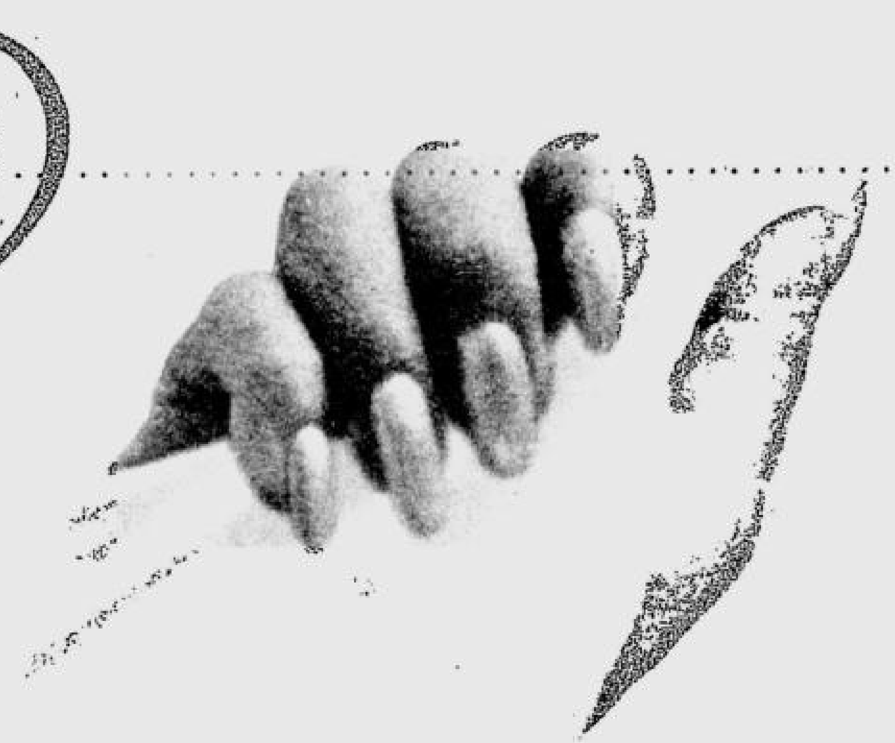
Some people are surprised when I tell them I choose to remain skeptical about religious faith—or institutionalized faith in general. But, you see, even my pursuit for that higher truth invests my life with a meaning that makes me want to get up every day and undertake the search. I want my faith to undergo the rigor of skepticism so that I may defend it. I may not know everything, but I do understand that the reward is in the journey, not the destination.

THE AUTHOR at 14 in the Intensive Care Unit, looking like a Nazi war camp survivor.

After four operations and two months in the hospital, one month of which was spent in the ICU, I survived. I have since undergone three more surgeries in addition to the first four, but it's been years now since the last one.

I don't really know how to say it, but when people ask me what I learned from my "near-death experience," I tell them simply that it has taught me how to live. And Easter? Wow! What a concept! It's so... true!

LAUNDRY MADE EASY



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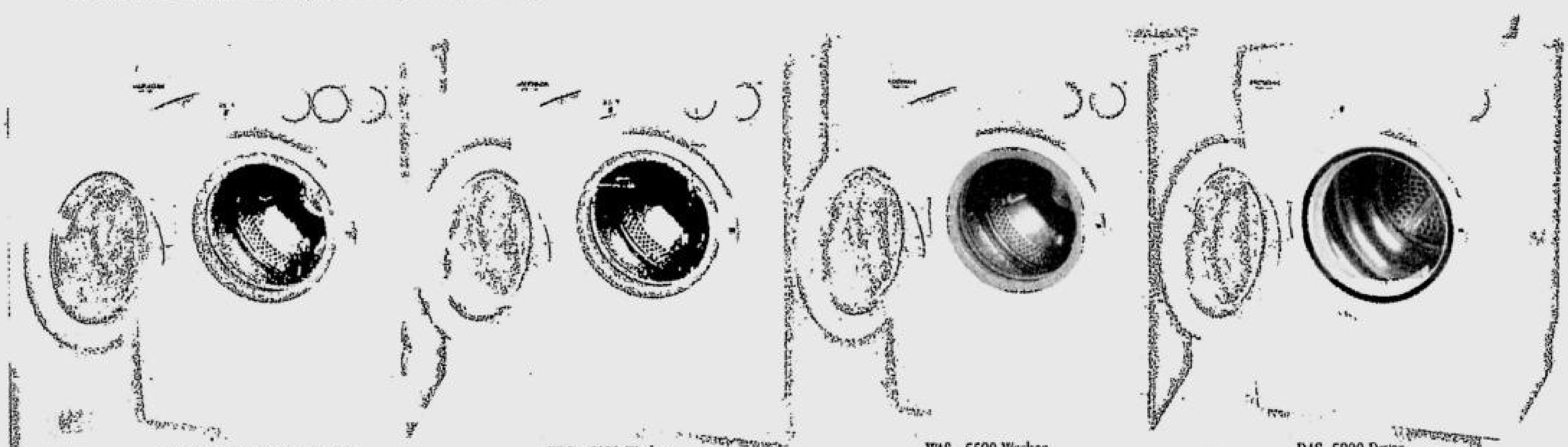

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Superhero

I imagine myself leaning on His shoulders when problems seem too heavy to bear

By Marivic Perez

WHEN I was a young girl, a popular television series, titled "Superman," depicted a superhero who was young, strong, good-looking and brave, coming to the rescue of those who'd seek his help, just in the nick of time.

This hero was the basis of my dream as a young woman that one day I would meet the handsomest, richest, strongest, most righteous person in the world who would solve all my problems and make all my dreams come true. I was dreaming of the perfect man, someone like Superman. But, of course, no such man existed, so I thought. And so my dream was soon forgotten.

In my work in sales, hard work is not enough; the luck ingredient is very important. I remembered what we learned in school: *Ore et labora*, pray and work. So I worked hard and prayed for luck.

At that time, adoration chapels were mushrooming in different Catholic parishes. I'd go to the chapel, pray and leave immediately for I had so much work to do. A poster of Jesus with hands clasped together in prayer would stare at me. It said, "Won't you spend one hour with me?" One time I couldn't close a deal for six months. I decided to spend that one hour in the Adoration Chapel. After that, I closed a deal the following week. And so I discovered Jesus as Someone to run to for help.

That started my regular visit to the Adoration Chapel, where the Blessed Sacrament is exposed and Jesus' presence is there for anyone who believed.

The Adoration Chapel was the place I'd frequent especially when problems were big and had to be solved urgently. Like, after I had worked on a project for two years and the person at the other end of the line refused to concede to my client's request. He was the make or break of the deal. A daily one-hour visit to the Adoration Chapel gave me the solution that convinced the person to change his mind. So the deal was closed.

For what might be trivial to others but important to me, I would ask Jesus for help. Please help me look beautiful on my wedding day; please help me with this relationship. Please give us beautiful weather on my parents' golden wedding anniversary.

Your best friend can be abroad, or too busy with work and family, but Jesus as a friend is always there. He can perform miracles, move mountains and help solve your problems. What better friend can there be?

I'm so glad Jesus is there as my friend. I imagine myself leaning on His shoulders when problems seem too heavy to bear, or picture myself tugging on His robe in the Temple saying, "Jesus, I need your help." And He helps me in ways that only a genius God can. We are only human so we make mistakes, but with Jesus as our guide, we can make the right decisions.

The financial crisis has greatly affected us, but my biggest consolation is that everything will turn out all right because our faith in Jesus will save us. The Masses are always full to the brim in our parish. We show our love to Jesus and He sees our love for Him. I know that amid all the trials and difficulties we as a nation are experiencing, we shall overcome because Jesus is there.

Thirty years after I had that superman dream, upon reflecting on how my life has turned out, it suddenly occurred to me that a superhero does exist. Yes, Jesus is the superhero of my dreams.

Meet The Fresh Confidence Team!

Mica

There's more to this girl than just a pretty face. Mica's got a zest for life and a cheerful attitude. She always keeps her cool and avoids tension whenever possible. Except when it comes to consumer rights. She reveals that she's always vigilant when it comes to consumerism. "I want to make sure that I get what I pay for," she adds. Her simple joys are eating out, answering crossword puzzles and going to movies alone. Not that she has no one to go out with, she does. But contrary to what everyone thinks, it's not mere good looks that makes Mica confident. She draws her confidence from experiences. When asked to describe herself in a word, she candidly says "Eccentric!"

Chris

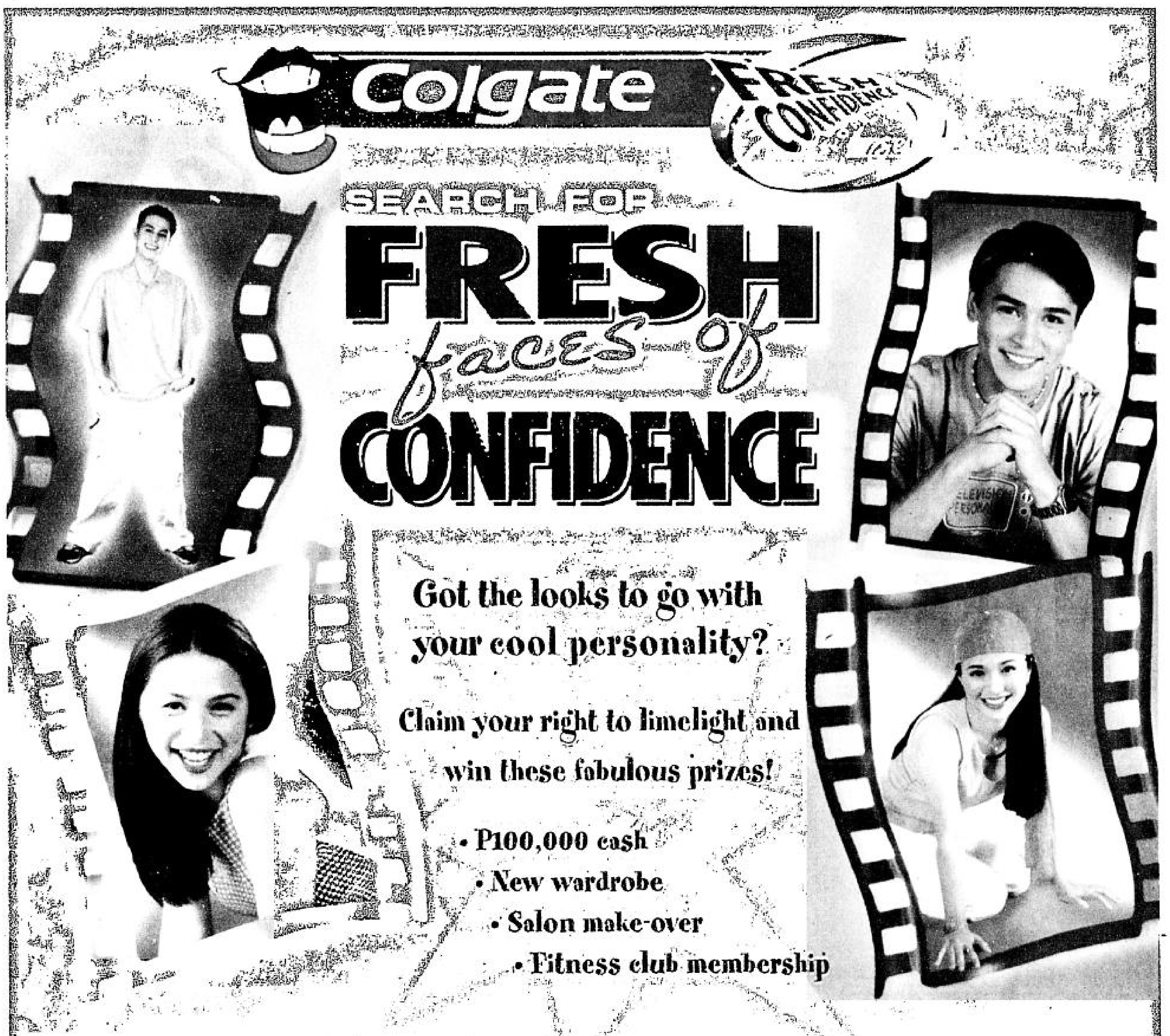
Don't let his fun-loving nature and that crowd-drawing sense of humor fool you. Beyond his carefree exterior is a perceptive and hard-working person. His greatest achievement is supporting himself to school. And what makes him different from others is his sense of discipline on and off-cam. Always keeping track of his schedule, he makes sure he has time for everything - from running household chores and attending to his buy and sell business to studying and modelling. And to unwind, Chris heads to the gym to practice Jujitsu. He says his passion for martial arts makes him focussed and relaxed.

Datu

This Zamboanga-mestizo actually has royal blood. An upcoming senior taking Accountancy, Datu plans to be in the advertising business someday. With boyish looks and a sparkling smile, one would think he's just perfect for a toothpaste ad. But there's more to this young man than meets the eye. He's inspiring, determined and focused. He values his education and makes sure he devotes time to studying. Candid and easy to talk with, casual and always cool, he likes going out with friends like a typical teenager. Mysterious and intriguing, insightful and idealistic, are only a few traits that make this young man charming.

Jack

You'll never get bored whenever she's around. A cover girl, karaoke queen, drama show princess and stand up comedienne all in one, Jack attributes her confidence to her knowing her craft. "It's important to know where you are really good at. It makes you realize where you are now and where you ought to be," she says. Jack has a lot more going on for her than just an awesome smile yet she reveals that the virtue she holds dear is humility. A trait she got from her Dad. She dreams of becoming a successful corporate lawyer someday. She says she hasn't done much that she could really be proud of at this stage but she looks to the future with much optimism.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1. Just send a recent half-body shot photo of yourself showing your cool, winning looks, write your name, address, signature and telephone number on a sheet of paper. You may also choose to nominate another person who you think qualifies for the "Search for Fresh Faces of Confidence" by sending candidate's photo along with his/her name, address, telephone number and signature. Nominator must also indicate his/her name, address, telephone number and signature.

   Enclose a Fresh Confidence proof of purchase (2 sachets or 1 carton of any size).

   Seal entry inside an envelope then clearly print the promo title:
   Colgate Fresh Confidence "SEARCH FOR FRESH FACES OF CONFIDENCE"

2. Mail entries to the nearest ABS-CBN station in your locality:

AREA	ADDRESS
GMA	ABS-CBN Head Office, Sgt. Esguerra Avenue, Quezon City
Baguio	103.1 DZRR 3/F Junfer Bldg., Bonifacio St., Baguio City
Dagupan	94.3 DWEC ABS-CBN Broadcast Complex, A.B. Fernandez East, Dagupan City
Isabela	3/F JECO Bldg., Maharlika Road, Santiago, Isabela
Laoag	3/F V&L Sons Bldg., JP Rizal St., Laoag City
Legazpi	93.9 DWRD 3/F Bayantel Bldg., Vel-Amor Subdivision, Legazpi City
Naga	ABS-CBN Broadcast Complex, Panganiban Avenue, Naga City
Tuguegarao	4/F Rios Bldg., College Ave., Tuguegarao, Cagayan
Bacolod	Lacson St., Mandalangan, Bacolod City
Cebu	North Road, Jagobiao, Mandaue City
Dumaguete	Hibbard Ave., Dumaguete City
Iloilo	Luna St., La Paz, Iloilo City
Tacloban	2/F RCPI Bldg., Justice Romualdez St., Tacloban City
Butuan	3/F Bayantel Bldg., M. Calo St., Butuan City
Cagayan de Oro	Door 8 Rosario Arcade, Limketkai Center, Cagayan de Oro City
Cotabato	6th St., Don E. Sero, Rosary Heights V., Cotabato City
Davao	Shrine Hills, Matina, Davao City
General Santos	3/F Asia Glass Bldg., Ramon Magsaysay Avenue
Iligan	5/F Elena Tower Inn, Tibanga Hi-way, Iligan City
Zamboanga City	San Jose Road, Zamboanga City

3. For all photographs sent as entries, Colgate Palmolive Philippines, Inc. ("Colgate") and/or its advertising agency shall have the right to use the photos in television and print materials in connection with the "Search for Fresh Faces of Confidence" promo without any fee or compensation being due either to the participant or to the nominator. For cases where the candidate's photo was sent by another person, the nominator has to get the consent/signature of the candidate and his/her acceptance of the promo mechanics. Colgate shall have ownership over all photos submitted for the promo.

4. Four winners will be chosen to comprise the "Fresh Faces of Confidence" Team who will each win Ps 100,000 cash, a free make-over at Salon de Manila, a new wardrobe from Sari-Sari Store, a one-year membership at Slimmer's World plus exposure in the television and print advertisement announcing the winners. Winners will be under exclusive tie-up with Colgate for one year. The salon make-over, new wardrobe and fitness club membership are non-convertible to cash. The final tax on prizes exceeding Ps 10,000 shall be paid by Colgate.

5. Winners will be selected by Colgate officials on the basis of photographs sent with entries to be opened in the presence of a BFAD representative.

6. Criteria in the selection of the final "Fresh Faces of Confidence" winners are as follows:

• Cool/ refreshing personality	30%
• Winning smile of confidence	30%
• Over-all projection	40%

7. All winners will be notified by phone and through registered mail on how, when and where to claim their prizes. Prizes will be claimed at the Colgate Head Office.

8. Winners must claim their prizes within sixty (60) days from the date of receipt of notification letter. Otherwise, the prize will be forfeited in favor of Colgate, with prior approval from BFAD.

9. When claiming their prize, winners must present proper identification documents with photos, (e.g., office or school ID card, passport, driver's license), together with the winner's identification letter sent by Colgate.

10. The decision of Colgate officials, in concurrence with the BFAD representative, is deemed final.

11. Employees of Colgate, its distributors, advertising and promo agencies, ABS-CBN Broadcasting Network, participating stores (Salon de Manila, Sari-Sari Store and Slimmer's World), including their relatives up to the second degree of affinity and consanguinity, are disqualified to join this promotion.

12. Promo period is from April 6, 2001 to July 15, 2001.

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SLIMMERS WORLD

Woven by the light

By Marge C. Enriquez

THE STORY of Sleeping Beauty is an allegory with many meanings. One meaning is that it may symbolize near-death experience (NDE). Light embraces the patient while in a coma; she wakes up after surviving a trauma. It could mean awakening from the sleep of ignorance and assuming a new life.

Writer Anthony Strano makes this comparison, "The soul is the Sleeping Beauty, God is the Prince and ignorance is the witch who casts her magic spell of slumber upon the princess. God's love for the soul is such that it is not stopped by any darkness or barrier, but reaches the soul to awaken it, bringing it back to reality."

Narda Capuyan's NDE and spiritual renewal are similar to Sleeping Beauty's tale. She had been roused from her bed of materialism and routine, opening up to a new horizon, a new vision.

In 1972, Narda was in a Baguio hospital after giving birth to daughter Lucia. Although it was a normal delivery, she was completely drained. Her condition was serious.

"I felt I was floating. I thought I was going to die," she recalls.

Narda complained to her obstetrician, who replied that perhaps she was just hungry.

> Weaving arts master Narda Capuyan's near-death experience unleashed creative energies that could represent the triumph of life over death

Narda started to vomit blood. She buzzed for the nurse. Narda used her background as a nurse to give her attendant emergency instructions. The nurse checked her blood pressure. It was a critical 50/0. She gave the nurse the dosage for the atropine and Benadryl that she asked to be injected quickly to help raise her blood pressure. As she gasped for breath, she instructed the nurse how to put the respirator on her.

When the doctors came to save her life, Narda suddenly saw herself looking down at her body. They opened a vein in her ankle to connect the dextrose. Her husband and son were frightened. Narda's aunts called out her name.

Silence

Suddenly she was overwhelmed by an otherworldly silence which seemed to provide her with the absolute energy to be freed from her pain. Then a powerful point of Light appeared. Narda was totally absorbed in the purity of the Light. She was sucked into a dark tunnel where time ceased. At the end of the tunnel was an ethereal world where she saw the silhouettes of her dead father and her relatives. They were waiting for her.

But instead of joining them, she began to be wrapped in silence again. Engulfed in its depths, she felt regenerated. In this renewal, her mind cleared itself, simplifying for her a different view of reality. The most profound truth was her eternity.

The next thing she knew, Narda had regained consciousness and was breathing through a respirator. Although the NDE lasted for only half an hour, it seemed like infinity for her. The doctors discovered that Narda had suffered from internal bleeding.

Narda says the NDE seems to have sharpened her intuition. Without any formal training in art or design, she would dream about her designs. She'd get up in the middle of the night after seeing the colors and patterns in her sleep and interpret them in her woven blankets.

Through time, she would get up early in the morning and work in silence. She would go deep into her soul, into a place of serenity, as if in a timeless womb. She felt a process of internal renewal. From there, a new pattern of pure energy was being woven in her soul. As she concentrated, original blueprints of love, truth and peace emerged in the patterns and colors of her fabrics. These qualities began to enter her life and her work. The experience gave her the wisdom and the integrity to succeed.

"I became a better Christian," says Narda.

Positive energies

The positive energies enabled Narda to diversify into placemats, rugs and tapestries. She started exporting to Japan, Italy, Europe and the United States. Her store, Narda's, now has branches in Makati, Naia, Rustan's Shangri-La, Robinsons and Festival Mall. Because of her professionalism and business savvy, Narda has received more than two dozen awards. The most important ones are the Golden Shell (she was its first recipient in 1983) and the Agora for marketing. She also cherishes the Countryside Investor and Benguet Leadership awards.

NARDA Capuyan says the best boss she's had is God.

Narda has always kept a balance among her work, family and profession.

To enhance her lifestyle, Narda took up raja yoga meditation and went to India for a retreat. One morning, she felt a sense of deva ju when she entered the meditation hall. It was the practice of everybody to meditate with his or her eyes open in front of a red orb of light, a representation of the Supreme Being. Narda wept when she recognized the symbol. This was same the point of light that she saw more than 25 years ago.

Narda felt like a lost child who was suddenly reunited with her Father. The meditation put her NDE into proper context. She could recreate the experience of being detached from the awareness of the physical body and have glimpses of God as Light. Through meditation, she became more receptive to Him. When she is focused on the thought of the Supreme, there is the experience of harmony and being awakened to the truth. It also makes her aware of illusions and of the need to remove them. To her, this is resurrection.

As writer Strano defined renewal, "In silence, we realize that it is not only a return to the roots, but even more, it is a return to the Seed, to the Beginning. It is a return to God, a return to myself, a return to the right relationship."

MADELINE de Guzman-Domingo, Belen Lovina Ticzon-Martel, Rev. Fr. Nelson Osorio, Offie Sulit-Pacheco and Norma Cruz

Mall donates to Catholic congregation

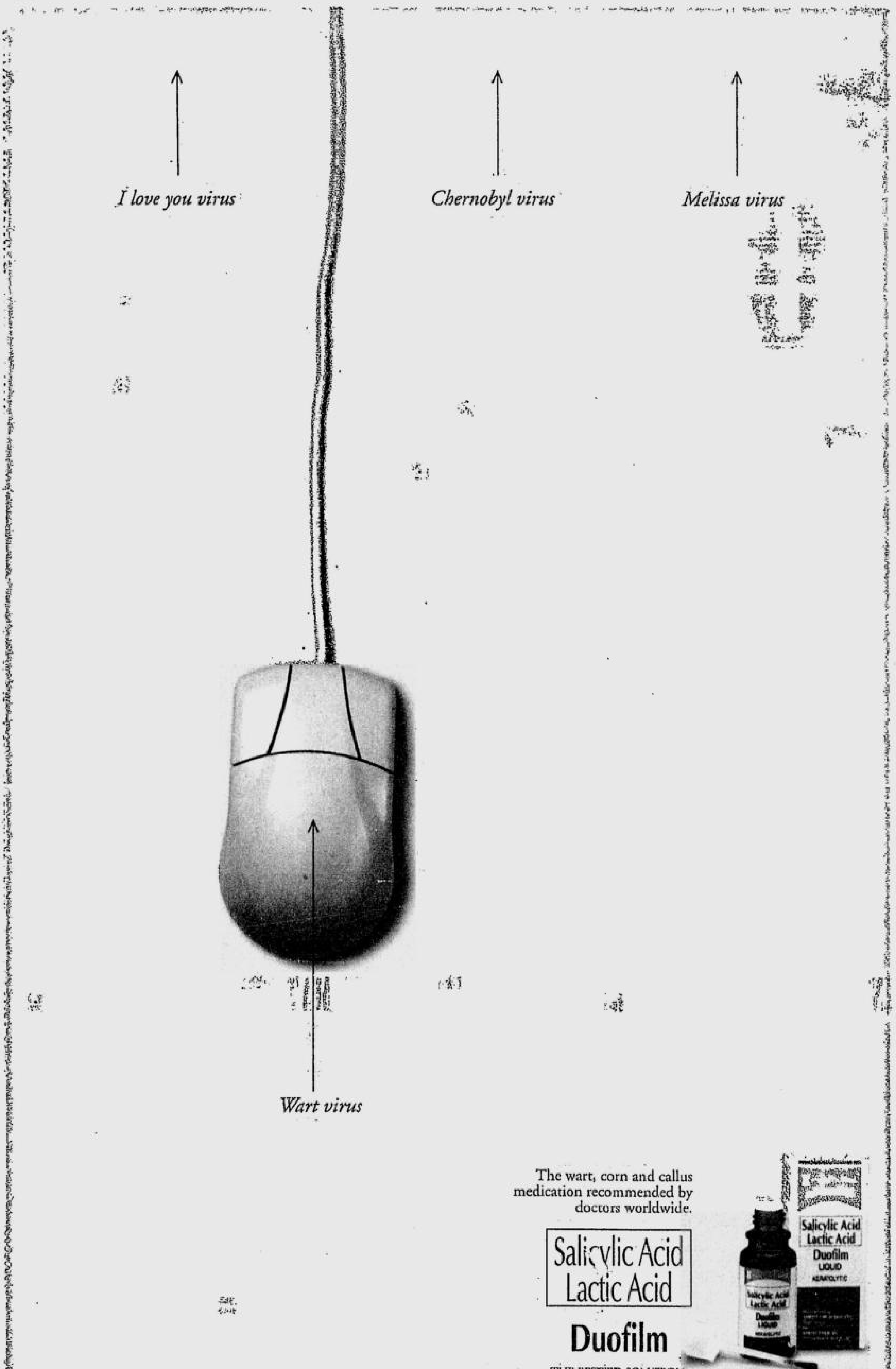
HARRISON Plaza, the country's first one-stop shopping mall, donated P250,000 to the Oblates of St. Joseph to help complete the construction of the congregation's theological house at South City Homes, Biñan, Laguna. The donation represented the rent income from a trade exhibit called "E-Commerce and IC Convergence" organized by Manuel Pacheco at the Garden Square of Harrison Plaza.

Belen Lovina Ticzon-Martel, executive assistant to the president of Harrison Plaza, initiated the donation, which was approved by her husband, HP president Antonio V. Martel Jr.

A substantial percentage of Harrison Plaza's rental revenues have been shared with charitable institutions like the Philippine Cancer Society Inc., Filipino War Veterans Foundation, Philippine National Red Cross, Sagip-Buhay Foundation, Lingkod E.R. Foundation Inc., Love 14 Foundation Inc., Association of Blind Masseurs, Association of Deaf and Mute, and many other institutions.

Present during the donation ceremony were Rev. Fr. Nelson Osorio; Madeline de Guzman-Domingo, staff assistant of Antonio V. Martel Jr.; Offie Sulit Pacheco, leasing officer, and Norma Cruz, purchasing officer.

PHOTO shows (from left) Lourdes Oben Santos, Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, Honorata Tan Malonso and Lt. Col. Júlian Malonso during the testimonial dinner held at Casino Español honoring the Letran alumni who participated in Edsa II.



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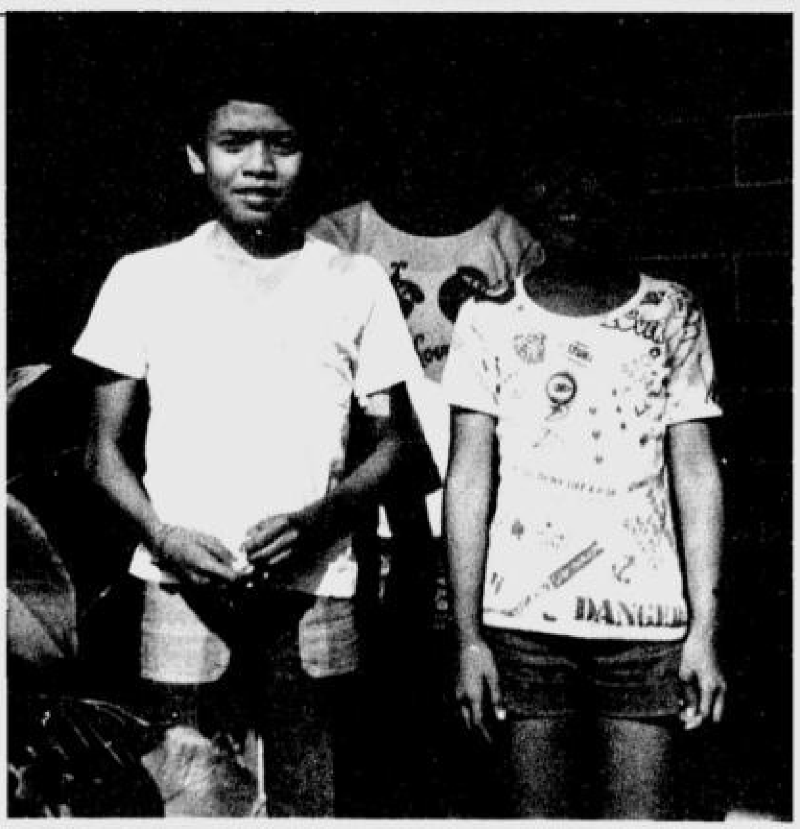
Beyond and back

By Cathy Babao Guballa

ERIC Babao on a second lease on life
PHOTO BY VAL HANDUMON

Eric Babao was 11 when he got a new lease on life, but the experience remains with him today and it probably will be vivid for him forever



WITH FRIENDS after the accident

EASTER always reminds me of the eternal hope that lies after the darkness. "Weeping may last through the night but joy cometh in the morning," the Psalmist says. My cousin Eric's story is particularly meaningful to me because it came at a time when my little boy's life hung in the balance. My 4-year-old son had lain in a coma for close to a week when I received a call from a cousin who related his amazing and comforting journey to the light and back. While my only son's life hovered between life and death, Eric's story gave me great reassurance that my little boy would be okay, no matter which way the scales tipped. More importantly, his experience concretized for him and for me, albeit vicariously, that the life hereafter was not something to be feared of and was a state of being which we could all one day look forward to.

On a warm late afternoon on March 16, 1973, Eric Babao, who was a week shy of his 11th birthday, was as usual, in the parking lot of Don Bosco-Makati waiting for his ride home. As was his routine, he played "war games" with a few of his schoolmates while waiting for their car pool to arrive. Throwing pebbles in the nearby creek (the area which is now the Don Bosco mortuary), he was unmindful of the heat and the cars coming in and out of the nearby parking lot behind him. "I was tossing pebbles into the creek when all of a sudden, everything became pitch black," Eric recalls. "It was like when you're in a room and someone switches off the lights. You have your eyes open but you can't see a thing."

Like floating

Eric distinctly recalls seeing flickers of light coming from both sides but everything was so silent. "It felt like I was floating, then after a while, I could hear voices coming from my left and right sides." Slowly, Eric says, he felt like he was being lifted up through a dark, cool tunnel and he recalls looking up and seeing a bright light which would grow brighter as he felt himself drawing closer. "It was a warm radiant light," Eric describes the sounds and sights as if they had only taken place yesterday. "A wave of contentment swept over me and filled my very being. The light was warm and reassuring. In spite of the darkness, I did not feel afraid at all."

What was most striking was "I did not have any apprehension whatsoever about leaving my dad, mom and sisters, *walang panghihinayang* or sadness. I was just being drawn closer and closer and I was willing to go and follow." Closer to the light, he began to hear a voice which "was a very soothing, calming," although he couldn't quite make out whether he was hearing something in English or Tagalog. Then, as he felt like he was very close to the light, all of a sudden, everything blacked out again and he remembers his clothes being ripped apart at the Emergency Room of the Makati Medical Center.

What transpired during that late afternoon was certainly miraculous. Eric was to find out later that he had been run over by an owner-type jeepney in the Don Bosco parking lot. "The man at the wheel was backing up and did not see me." What's worse is that the man thought he had gone over a rock and so he further backed up the jeep to try to get over it. His playmates were yelling at the driver to stop. His rear tire was already on top of Eric's chest. Eric was rushed to the Makati Medical Center ER where he was attended to by a team of doctors led by Dr. Vicente Campa (who was medical director of San Miguel Corporation where Eric's parents both worked). "Everyone at the ER was saying that they needed to open me up immediately because they were afraid that I was bleeding internally or that I had ruptured some major organ. Dr. Campa though advised against it and since, I suppose, he was the most senior, they heeded his advice."

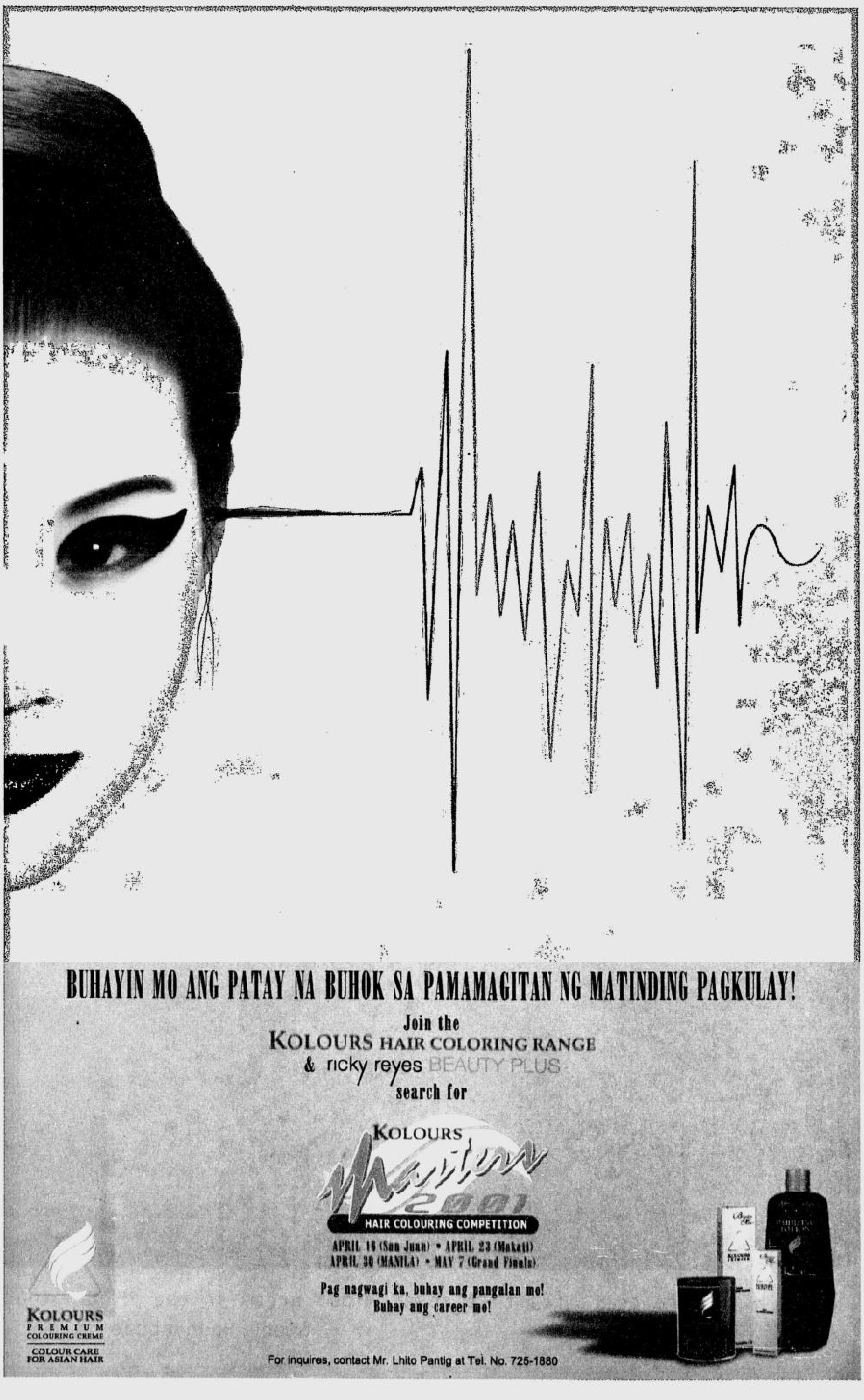
Second lease

True enough, when Eric was revived after being declared clinically dead for about 10 seconds, ("The doctors said I went flatline for about 10 seconds") they moved him to the ICU and was put under observation for three days where all that was found was a slightly fractured right rib. "No hemorrhage, no busted organs," Eric says. Moved to a regular room, he celebrated his 11th birthday quietly in the confines of the hospital among family, friends and the medical staff.

Today, hale and healthy, married with two children, Eric remains grateful to the second lease on life given to him. The experience remains fresh and vivid. Having tasted first-hand how it was to be so close to the presence of God made Eric strive all the more to develop a closer and more personal relationship with the Almighty. "All those years after the accident, after the experience, I felt that something was lacking in my relationship with the Lord. I became very active in the church, tried all sorts of things *pero kulang pa rin. 'Pag kasi naramdaman mo na napakalapit mo sa Kanya, hahanap-hanapin mo talaga.* I really needed to know God more and to get closer to Him." Eric found that fulfillment when he finally developed a close personal relationship with Jesus Christ by becoming a Christian. He says he no longer fears the experience of death because of the rare glimpse he was given of the journey we all look forward to taking one day.

At the end of two weeks, my son went on his own journey to the Light, to join his real Father. Though it was painful, I found comfort somehow in Eric's story and in the hope of one day seeing my son again. Each Easter reminds me of that hope and that promise of new life. Truly, there is joy that comes with the morning.

E-mail the author at cbguballa@inquirer.com.ph



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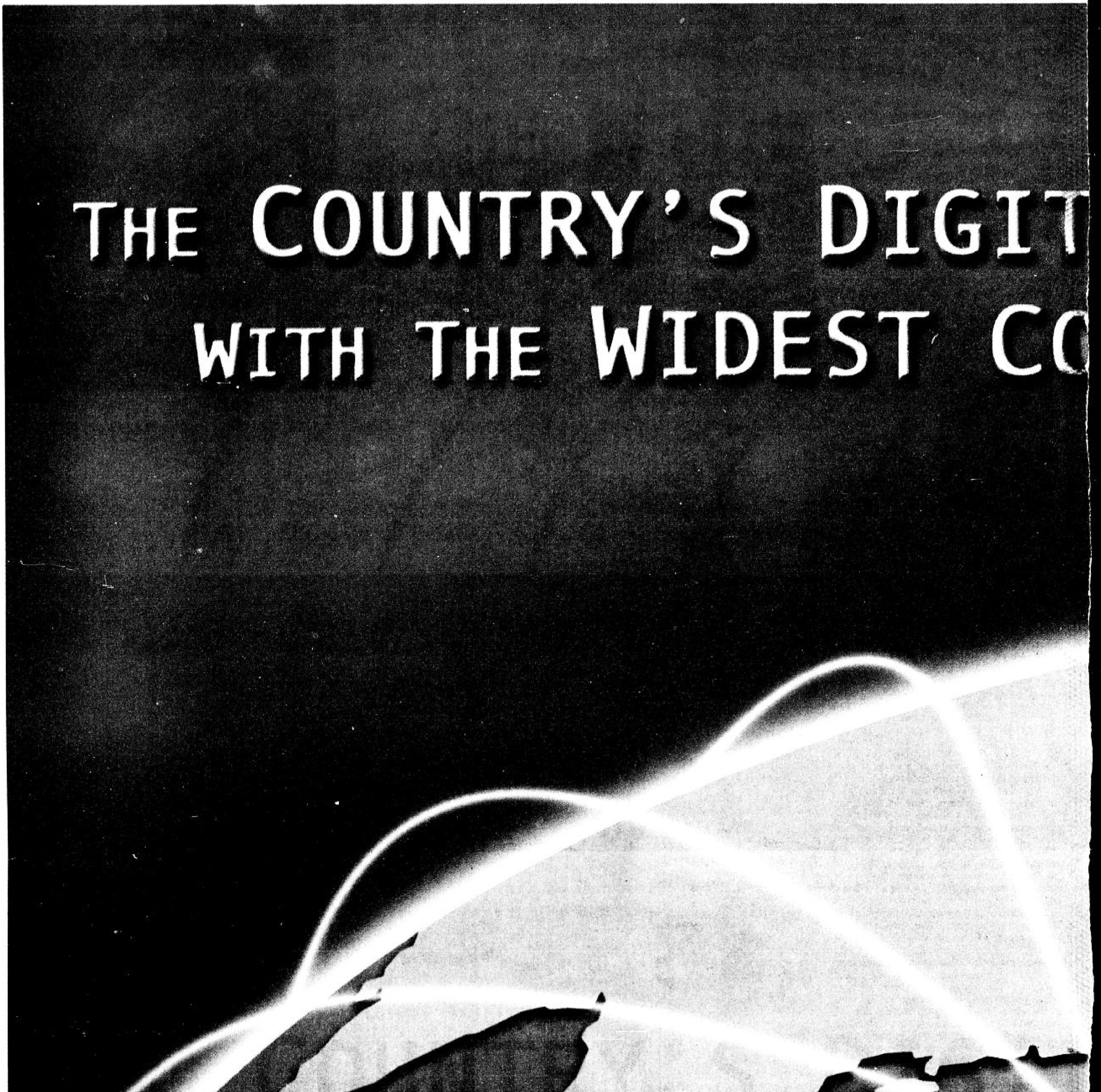
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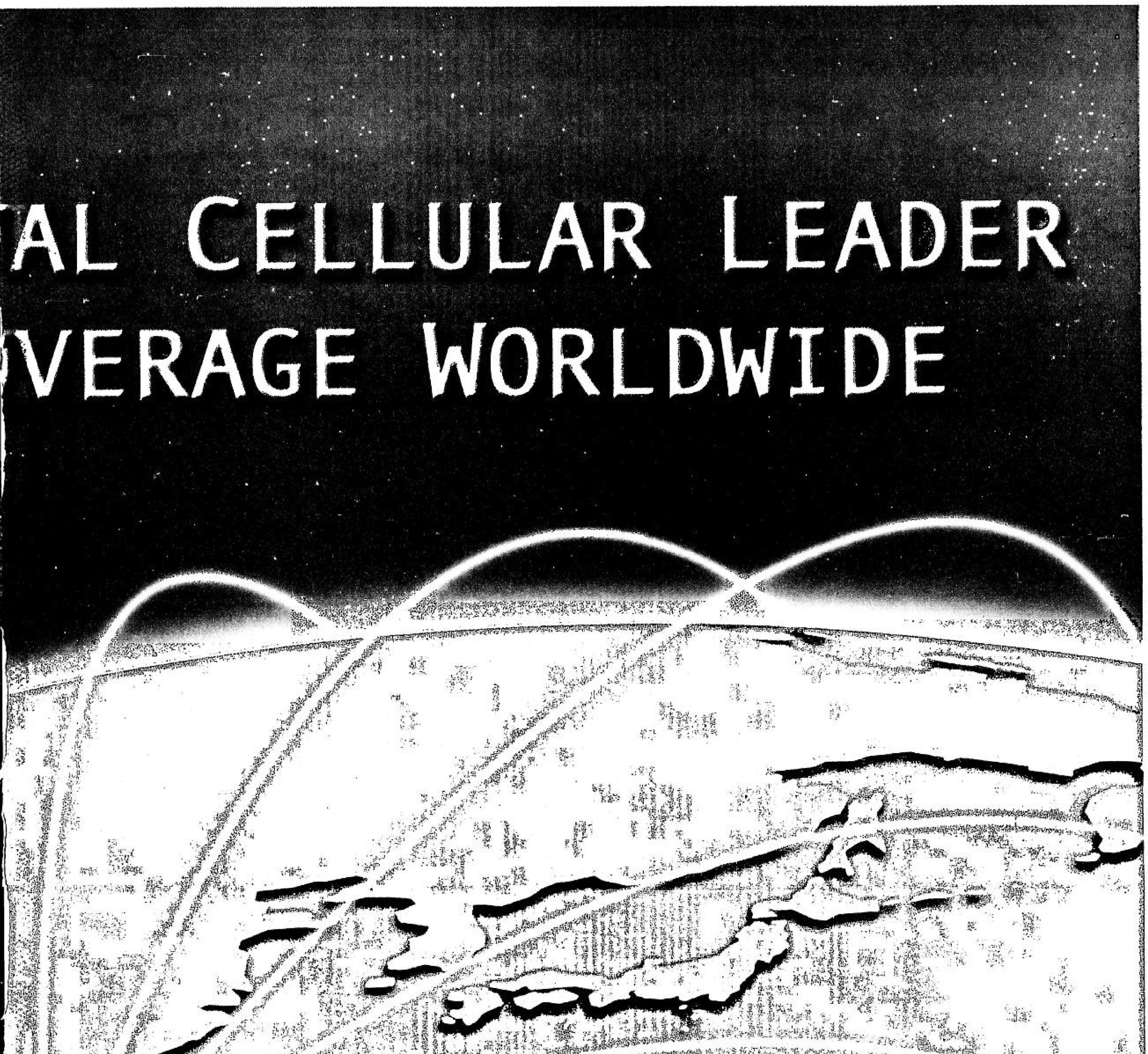
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Youth leadership program slated this April

WORLD Vision, an international Christian humanitarian development and relief agency, will be holding its 1st Youth Leadership Workshop on April 20-21 at the Community Resource Center, Naic, Cavite. This workshop aims to increase young people's awareness of the current poverty situation in our country, particularly child laborers. Participants are from major universities and schools in Manila.

GOINGS-ON

MUSIC COURSES. The Miriam College Center for Applied Music offers courses in piano, voice, violin, flute, guitar, cello and music theory from April 16 to May 17 this summer. Enrollment is ongoing. Call 426-1822 or 927-2421 local 218.

ART CONTEST. Museo Pambata with Tetra Pak Phils. Inc. celebrates Earth Day 2001 with "Sa Basura, May Magagawa Ka Pa!," an on-the-spot art contest for kids. This will be held on April 22, 1-5 p.m., at the Museo Pambata's Karapatan Hall. Deadline of registration is on April 17. Awarding ceremonies is on April 28. Interested parties may register at the Museo Pambata office on Roxas Boulevard corner South Drive, Manila. Call 523-1797 to 98.

HOMECOMING. The Arellano (Manila North) High School Alumni Association will be holding its 56th General Homecoming on April 22, 2 p.m., at the Arellano High School Quadrangle on Teodora Alonzo Street, Sta. Cruz, Manila. Call Rene (899-9955), Joe (415-9523), Ben (681-8447) or Beth (810-6360).

APPLIANCE QUEST. Abenson brings back the "Appliance Quest" at three various locations. Until April 30, Abenson will feature the latest summer appliance collection at Robinsons Place Manila, Orosa, Atrium. Journeying to Ever Ortigas is the Atrium exhibit from April 16 to May 9. The final destination will be at Robinsons Place Imus on April 20 to May 9. Call 536-8020/7914.

SCIENCE CAMP. De La Salle University-Dasmariñas, through its College of Science, will sponsor its annual Summer Science Camp for promising young scientists from April 16-20. This year's activity theme is "Harnessing Information Technology Toward Science and Technology Development." Call (046) 416-0338.

SUMMER WORKSHOP. Adarna House, Powerbooks Specialty Store Inc. and Family Reader Magazine will stage "Kuwentong Adarna: Summer Storytelling and Workshop for Kids," from April 18 to May 5. Call 410-5200.

HOLISTIC WORKSHOPS. The Center for Health and Creative Arts, your holistic community center, offers workshops for kids and teens on April 19, 24 and 26, 3-4:30 p.m. Bong Veloso conducts the Dreamcraft workshop for 6- to 12-year-olds.

The Strong Minds program provides innovative training in mental calculation, focus and concentration. The sessions will be held Mondays through Fridays (except Wednesdays) from April 16 to May 25, 9:30-11 a.m.

Nonoy Ozueta conducts the Little Angels workshop on May 4, 9 a.m.-12-nn.

Gabriel Narciso and the Chacra team will give the workshop on Seven Habits of Highly Effective Teens on April 28, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Chacra is at 144 B. Gonzales St., Loyola Heights, QC. Call 426-5368 and 434-5381.

How to avoid summer brain drain

STUDIES show that an idle summer can disrupt children's ability to focus and concentrate when they return to school. Some kids spend their summer watching cartoons, going to shopping malls, or playing video games. When these kids return to school, it can take weeks before their minds are ready for learning again.

At the StrongMinds Program, the lessons provided are mentally challenging and give kids a competitive advantage. The StrongMinds Program is for children 6-12 years old.

Beginning April 16, 24 sessions will be held from 9:30 a.m.-11 a.m. on weekdays (except Wednesdays) at the Center for Health and Creative Arts (Chacra) located at 144 B. Gonzales, Loyola Heights, QC. The introductory price is a steal at P3,000 (down from its original price of P9,000). One class is limited to 12 children only. Call 411-1695 or 926-8110 and look for Marie to register.

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Nestle Classic
Nestle Classic Eclairs
FOX'S
Goya Chocolate Coins
Goya Cubes
Goya Golden Crown
Goya Silver Cup
1st Prize 4 Trips for 2 to Pacific Island Club, Saipan + $200
2nd Prize 4 Trips for 2 to Pearl Farm, Davao + P5,000
3rd Prize 20 winners of P5,000
1st Prize 4 Trips for 4 to Bali, Indonesia + $200
2nd Prize 4 Trips for 4 to Hotel Fleuris, Palawan + P5,000
3rd Prize 20 winners of P5,000
Put those shades on 'cause Nestle and Goya are taking you to the best beaches here and abroad. All you need is one wrapper for a chance to win cash or exotic holiday packages. Hot stuff!

MECHANICS OF THE
"NESTLE SUMMER GETAWAY" PROMOTION

HERE'S HOW

1. Write your name, address, telephone number, and signature on a piece of paper.
2. Attach this to a single wrapper, label, or pouch of any of the following Nestle or Goya Confectionery products: Kit Kat, Nestle Classic Milk Chocolate, Nestle Classic Eclairs, Fox's, Goya Chocolate Coins, Goya Cubes, Goya Silver Cup, Goya Golden Crown.
3. Drop your entries at the NESTLE SUMMER GETAWAY drop boxes at designated Supermarkets and Groceries.
4. Or you may send your entries to any of the following:
   a) Goya, Inc., 23 M. Tuazon St., Parang Marikina City
   b) Nestle Philippines, Inc., 31 Plaza Drive, Rockwell Center, Makati City
   c) Or any Nestle office near you.
5. Draw date is on July 7, 2001 and Cut off date is on June 30, 2001.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. All prizes are tax free.
2. All prizes are not convertible to cash but transferable.
3. Total prize to be given away per region (GMA, LUZ, VIS, MIN) are as follows:

Adults	1st Prize	Trip for 2 to Pacific Island Club, Saipan + $200.00
	2nd Prize	Trip for 2 to Pearl Farm, Davao + P5,000.00
	3rd Prize	5 x P5,000.00
Family	1st Prize	Trip for 4 to Bali, Indonesia + $200.00
	2nd Prize	Trip for 4 to Palawan + P5,000.00
	3rd Prize	5 x P5,000.00

4. Draw date is on the 7th of July 2001.
5. Entries will be drawn per showcase per region.
6. The first valid entry drawn in each showcase per region will be declared as the winner.
7. A winner can only win once per showcase per draw. However, a person can win in another showcase in the same draw.
8. Three-fourths of the wrapper, label, pouches or cap must be intact to qualify as an entry.
9. All raffle promotion winners will be notified via telegram, which will indicate how and where they may claim their prizes. Prizes not claimed within 60 days from the date of receipt of telegram shall be forfeited only upon approval of DOH-BFAD.
10. Winners must present any two valid identification papers among the following along with the original telegram of notice when claiming their prizes: Company ID, Birth Certificate, NBI Clearance, Passport, Marriage, Driver's license or SSS ID.
11. A winner for a particular region must be a resident of the area of coverage.
12. All prizes are transferable provided claimants present the following: Letter of authorization from winner, any two valid identification papers or IDs of winner, any two valid identification papers or IDs of claimant and original telegram sent by Goya, Inc.
13. Prizes are subject to availability. Should a stated prize be unavailable for whatsoever reason, Goya, Inc. reserves the right to substitute the prize with another of similar value as deemed suitable by Goya, Inc.
14. Winners can claim their prizes at the nearest Nestle office on the date indicated in the telegram.
15. All winners will shoulder travel/transportation expenses incurred in the course of claiming their prizes.
16. An authorized representative from the Bureau of Food and Drugs will be present to supervise the raffle draw.
17. Goya, Inc.'s decision in concurrence with the DOH-BFAD is deemed final.
18. Nestle reserves the right to publish the names and/or photographs of winners for advertising and publicity purposes. All winners will be notified by mail.
19. All employees of Goya, Inc., Nestle Philippines, Inc., its advertising and promotion agencies, its packaging supplier, their spouses and relatives up to the second degree of affinity or consanguinity are not qualified to join.

DOH-BFAD Permit No. 0101 s. 2001

Do quick-fix diets work?

THE CONSUMER

Marietta Velasco Giron

INSTANT weight-loss diets prescribed in popular fad-diet books may work like magic, but their effect is short-term and may even be bad for health, warned nutrition researchers of Food Facts Asia, a publication of Asian Food Information Center.

Low-carbohydrate, high-protein diets, for example, the authors said, "are nothing more than low-calorie diets in disguise, but with some potentially serious consequences." The authors mentioned "ketosis" which makes dieting easier because it decreases appetite and causes nausea. But it also increases the levels of uric acid in the blood, which is a risk factor for gout and kidney disease in susceptible people.

"These diets can also result in dehydration, diarrhea, weakness, headaches and bad breath. Over the long term, they may increase the risk of osteoporosis and coronary heart disease," the researchers further cautioned.

They quoted Dr. Corazon C. Barba, director of the Food and Nutrition Research Institute, an agency of the Department of Science and Technology. "Fad diet book authors often take a scientific half-truth that is complex and use that as the basis of their arguments. Food diets are not the way to go. [These] are short-term, quick-fix approaches that do not deliver lasting weigh loss," Dr. Barba stated.

Fad diets

Here are indications of fad diets listed by Food Facts Asia:

- Claims that you can shed off 0.5 to 1 kilogram per week.
- Promotes miracle foods such as "food melts away fat." (The fact is, no food can undo the long-term effects of overeating and lack of exercise.)
- Restricts intake or eliminates certain foods and recommends consumption of certain food in large quantities, or prescribes specific food combinations and rigid inflexible menus.
- Implies that weight loss is possible without exercise and change in lifestyle.
- Relies heavily on undocumented case histories, testimonials and anecdotes with no supporting scientific research.
- Claims sound too good to be true.

For a copy of Food Facts Asia and a list of popular fad diets and comments, write to AFIC at 08-07 Yen San Building, 287 Orchard Road, Singapore 238856.

CD for weight watchers

THIS CD will diagnose if the Filipino consumers' calorie intake is in excess, or otherwise, and prescribes the right kind and amount of food and exercise to stay healthy!

"We call it the E-Calc or Energy Calculator, a new software designed for computing energy derived from food and recommends the equivalent physical activity or exercise," explained Salvador Serrano of Food and Nutrition Research Institute.

You need Windows programs (95 and up with at least 35 mb) to run it. E-Calc CD plus instruction manual costs P600. Call Gemma Yuchingtat at 837-2071 (local 2299) or Salvador Serrano at local 2287.

EasyCall does not send Scriptures

HERE'S the response of EasyCall Communications Phils. Inc. to the complaint about unsolicited scripture updates that appear on pagers.

"As a general policy, EasyCall on its own, does not send scriptural messages or Bible verses to its subscribers. What we do send daily are late-breaking news and forex updates as our gesture of appreciation to our subscribers. The person who complained must have received these scriptural messages from his callers. If he does not appreciate receiving such messages, we, upon his request by e-mail or by fax, will instruct our operators not to transmit such messages."

Book on holistic medicine

"PERSPECTIVES on Natural Health: An Anthology of Holistic Medicine" by Dr. Josef de Ubaldo (we're proud to mention he is a Filipino) will be available soon. It is a compilation of his articles, researchers, lectures and speeches produced in the last five years. Dr. Ubaldo earned his doctorate in the science of alternative medicine from India. He was also nominated to be an ambassador of the World Federation of Integrated and Complementary Medicine by Sir Jason Winters, Knight of Grace St. John, UK.

The book will be launched April 23 at Shangri-La Makati. Proceeds will go to the Institute of Woundtology (pioneered by the author to help folks who have been wounded "emotionally and spiritually"). Call the Institute at 371-7015 and 371-7016.

Calling Neo Ronin!

WE want Neo Ronin to know that the promo office coordinator of Leyte Advent Sales Corp. waited one month for his return call. Ronin complained in this column that the prize he won during the Close-Up contest in Tacloban City "was a used Nokia with a former subscriber's name to prove it." Coordinator Rhodora Derequito wanted to replace it with a brand-new unit. Her offer ended March 31. Be that as it may, Ronin should write or call Derequito at (053) 255-3827, (053) 561-1266 or e-mail lascorm@ormocnet.net.ph.

E-mail the author at mgiron@csi.com.ph

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

My corner of the sky

BY MARICEL PANGILINAN ARENAS

IN ONE corner of our bedroom, up close to the ceiling, we have a narrow strip of a window that never fails to bring me a sense of wonder. It's a long, fixed window that doesn't let any air in, but it brings in quite a bit of light. It has bars all the way across, from top to bottom as well, but through the glass I have a clear view of the sky.

Each day, before I get up from bed, I look up and through the window and see a little bit of our clay-tiled roof, a little bit of the stucco-fish white eaves, and best of all, a corner of the sky. I think of it as *my* corner of the sky. Sometimes it's gray, many times it's cloudy, but most times, it's a brilliant blue piece of heaven.

Every time I look up into that corner of the room, I see a promise. I see beyond the window and that brilliant blue piece of heaven becomes an infinite expanse. I imagine the universe extending endlessly, our sphere of a world, stars and all, galaxy upon galaxy suspended in space held up by nothing the eye can see. Awesome.

A couple of weeks back, just past midnight, I woke up to what looked like a glow-in-the-dark husband. In its nighttime journey across the sky, the full moon's beams had found their way into our room and swathed my husband in cool, white, silver light. The light touched only him. I was still in the dark.

I tripped on that for a bit before going back to sleep. He covered his face with his pillow and muttered something about moonburn but not even that could touch the magic of that moment.

I think about God and how He's like that corner of the sky to me. What I see of Him, what I know of Him is just this little patch that yet grips me—trusting, believing, knowing that beyond my own four-cornered, barred-even perspective His immeasurable love and inescapable presence are realities that span eternity.

> What I see of Him, what I know of Him is just this little patch that yet grips me—trusting, believing, knowing that beyond my own four-cornered, barred-even perspective His love and presence are realities that span eternity

At certain times of the day, the window is a pain, bringing in far more light than we'd like to deal with. It hits us straight in the eye, casts sunbeams over our television and computer screens, which lie directly in its line of light. Bad for the machines. Every now and then my husband bugs me about the blinds we have agreed we'd put up to shield us from the annoying mid-afternoon streams of sunshine.

I've made a few attempts to get in touch with Mr. Chua, my friend Annie's trusted supplier of window blinds. (Once upon a time, I saw a print ad for a blind company saying their vision was to "blind the Philippines"! These days, it does seem like the company has more than surpassed its vision.) Somehow, I can't gather enough energy to sheathe our window. When Mr. Chua finally does come around, I'll have to make sure and tell him I want blinds that'll stay up and out of the way most of the time.

Keeping an eye on the sky means a lot to me. Besides, I don't want to keep the light out. I need all the light I can get.

Magandang Morning
Breakfast Meals
B1 HOTCAKES MEAL (CHOICE OF SAUSAGE OR HAM) P39.
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B3 TOCINO MEAL P49.
B4 HAMBURGER MEAL P59.
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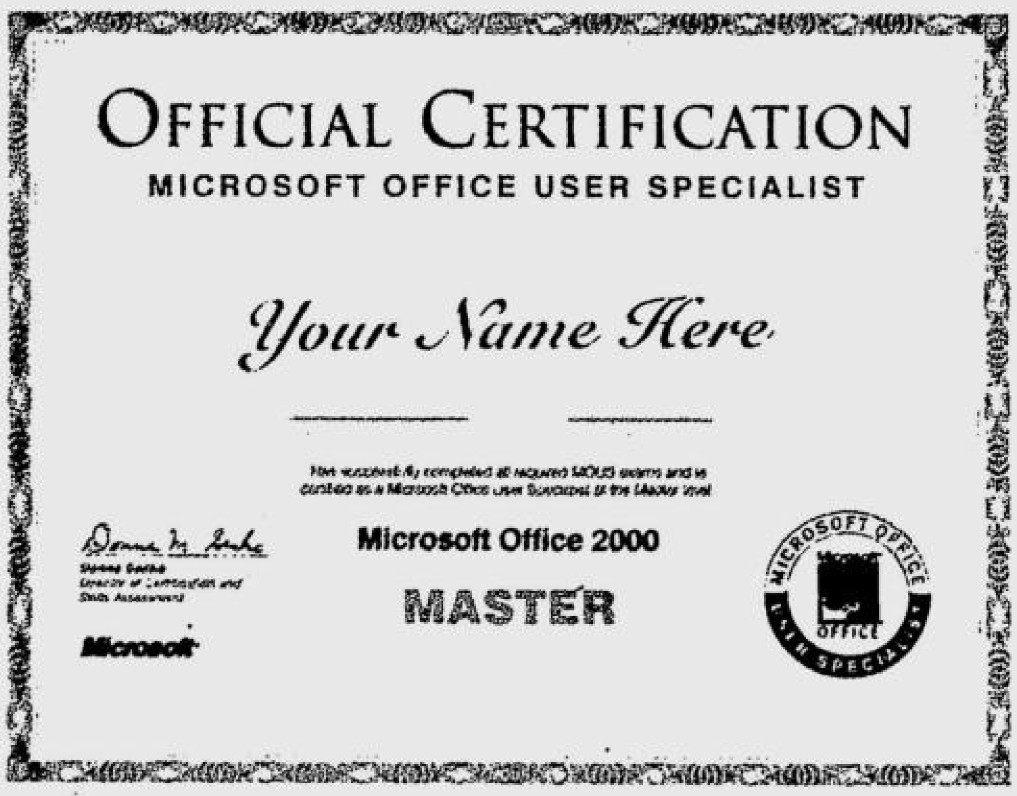

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She waits for him to propose marriage; he wants his business to prosper first

LIVE AND LET LIVE

Tita Dulce

DEAR Tita Dulce,

I am in my mid-30s and I hold an administrative job. My boyfriend of two years is in his late 30s. He doesn't have plans yet of getting married because, he says, he's not yet financially ready. That's okay with me. I don't want to pressure him. And I think I can wait. (I hope.)

Even if his family could afford seeing him through college, he did not finish it because, he said, he's not good at studying. But he's polite. He has no vices and he is kind. In fact, that just might be his problem—he's too kind. He sells a lot of his goods on credit, even if he's having great difficulty meeting his overhead and payments to his suppliers. His relatives lend him money whenever he's short, but what will happen if they can't lend him funds anymore?

Then, too, he's got a lot of godchildren. They are so many that even if he gives each of them less than P100 on Christmas, he'll have to shell out thousands! Isn't it okay for him to refuse when he's asked to be godfather again? In my case, I accept only when the child's parents are my close friends or relatives.

I've been telling him to either change the way he has been running his business or to change to another business in which his kindness won't be abused. And, also, to refuse invitations to be godfather. Am I right?

And should I continue waiting for his marriage proposal? I'm not getting any younger, so I'd like to start my own family soon.

LETTY

As regards invitations to be a godparent in a baptism, our custom asks that we graciously accept. It is ideal, of course, that we are close to the child's parents, but being an ideal, that is seldom the case. That doesn't negate, nevertheless, the innate goodness of the role that is offered to us: To help in the spiritual growth of the child. And what adult could refuse helping a child grow nearer to God?

Unfortunately, material—not spiritual—benefits are sometimes the parents' more apparent reason in asking us to be their child's *ninong* or *ninang*. But that is a reflection of bad judgment on their part than on ours, and while we might have to accept the invitation, we could always simply send a proxy and a modest gift on baptism day.

Be that as it may, having a lot of godchildren, as well as extending credits to a lot of people, is good for politicians and businessmen. Since your boyfriend is a trader, he might be looking at those two practices as a way for him to get a good share of the market.

Obviously, you see them as the way to his financial ruin. But whether or not they will ruin him is perhaps not the important point right now. What's important, I think, is, if with views as different as night and day, the two of you can have a happy marriage. Managing the family's finances is as much a part of marriage as loving. And if you can't agree on both, the likelihood of harmony at home is nil. The issue, therefore, my dear, is not finance but compatibility.

If you had missed that point, I hope it wasn't because you have been more concerned about getting married sooner than having a good marriage. If that is your reason, I can't blame you. Your biological clock is ticking away and your boyfriend has tied your wedding schedule to the state of his bank account. But while I won't blame you, I'd admonish you against keeping that perspective. It is easy to wed; it just takes a couple of hours. The real challenge, though, is in keeping the marriage, and that's a lifetime. Think about it, *hija*.

Her dad is cheating on her mom

DAD and my sister's godmother are cheating on Mom. I don't know if I should alert Mom or confront Dad. If I alert her, I know she will be very hurt. If I confront him, he will deny it and will only get angry with me.

I never expected Daddy to betray Mommy's love and trust. We all think he is a good man and an ideal husband and father. Then one lunchtime, I saw him and my sister's godmother holding hands while walking in the mall. I was so shocked and ashamed I could not go near and greet them.

Days after that, I called his office (where the woman also works) and was told he was out to lunch with her. I also learned they always have lunch in office together and have lunch out together at least once a week.

A week later, during lunchtime again, I was in a cab when I saw Dad's car pull in a hotel. He was driving and the woman seated beside him was my sister's godmother.

I told my godmother about this. She is a mutual friend of Dad and that woman, and she was quite shocked. She did not expect they could do it, even if, she admitted, there had been signs of emotional attachment between then.

Lately, I sometimes blame my dad's friends for not recognizing the signs that he has been having an affair with that woman, and for not doing something about it. They got too blinded by his good image. So what if he drives Mom to and from her work? Dad's officemates forgot that even metal melts when constantly exposed to fire. They could have reminded Dad of the dangers of having lunch with that woman regularly.

I cannot imagine Mom's reaction if she learns of this. On the other hand, I also cannot stand doing nothing to stop Dad. I feel guilty like I am already a party to the deception and betrayal.

JESSA

As I said in an earlier column, children should not feel guilty when their parents break their vows of marital fidelity. The problem affects the entire family, of course, but it springs from their vows to each other. Since only the parents themselves can break or nurture those vows, then the prime responsibility of solving conflicts in those vows rests on the parents and not on the children.

The most that children can do, in whatever fair and honest way they can, is to prevent that problem from continuing or to avoid complicating it with problems of their own making. The children, for example, should avoid expressing their disappointment by being rebels or running away, or being a problem child in general.

If they grew up being close and frank to their parents, the children could talk to the offending parent and console the offended one. As much as they can, the children should try to be impartial. It is easy, for instance, to immediately blame the unfaithful parent. But most cases show that if given the chance to explain, that parent could almost always cite a valid (though not necessarily fair) reason for his or her misbehavior. The worst message the children could give to that parent is that what s/he has done is beyond understanding and forgiveness. Such a message risks alienating the offender further from the family. That would be tantamount, I feel, to allowing the children to put asunder what God has put together.

Don't feel guilty, *hija*, just because you have witnessed to your father's unfaithfulness. Witnessing a crime is a lot different from committing it. Also, no one can say you did not do anything to show your opposition to what he and your sister's godmother is doing—you told your godmother about it, didn't you? That counts a lot.

If you wish to do more, there is, perhaps, one other thing you could explore: You and your sister could write that woman and tell her what you know and feel about their affair. Don't offer as proof only the things their officemates told you. To make it difficult for her to deny their relationship, cite specifics of the occasions when you saw them together. Tell her, too, that you've told your godmother about it.

Extramarital lovers are hardly bothered when they are seen and frowned upon by people unknown or not personally close to them. As far as the lovers are concerned, "nobody" has complained. But their consciences come alive when their spouses or children unmask and condemn the affair. And that's what your letters to her would do.

I won't suggest that you write your father as well. After all, his woman will surely let him know about the letters she received. If you write him separately, he could interpret that as a direct declaration of war with him and, in defense or in retaliation, he could make life in your home very difficult for everyone, including your mother. Give him, instead, the option to keep that war private between you and him. His alternative is to bring the conflict out in the open, exposing the affair in the process and courting the likelihood that your mother will join you in the fray.

In your letters, make sure you are civil. Let's hope that when that woman sees that you, despite being much younger than she is, can put your rightful indignation in check, then she'd realize it behooves her and your father put their illicit passion in check as well.

But don't rush to writing those letters, *hija*. Discuss the idea first with your godmother. She knows your father and that woman more than I ever could. Her insights will be valuable.

Whatever you do, remember you could only do so much. In problems like this, the real solution is for both spouses to acknowledge the things they did or did not do which led to the problem, to vow to do better, to forgive and, as much as possible, to forget. These are things which children cannot do for their parents.

E-mail titadulce@netscape.net or send letters to P.O. Box 2353, Makati CPO 1263 Makati City, or PDI, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City

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A touchy-feely kind of zoo

By Beia Formoso

WHAT did you do that Saturday when there was a blackout? Whistle in the dark?

Well, some of you might have pulled the Scrabble board or bingo cards out of storage and tried to have a gamefest at home, but the heat prevented brain waves from functioning normally. No choice but to go out. Problem: without the malls to save us from boredom and heat, what are people to do?

What is the one place that does not require power to run its rides, or lights to attract viewers, or air-conditioning to cool people down, or two tollbooths to get there? Hint: before electricity, what did our ancestors do besides burn wax? Run wild—with the animals!

"Every Filipino has visited the Manila Zoo at least once in their childhood," says Raymund Ballesteros, who strikes you at first as a yuppie who doesn't give a hoot about reviving a dying zoo but is actually active in the Friends of the Manila Zoo Foundation. He notes that folks who came as kids to the zoo now take their own children, and schools bring students for exposure trips during the school year.

In its early years, adds Mr. Ballesteros, the Manila Zoo was the premier zoo in Asia. But through the years, well, you know what happened.

Now there's a terrific reason to hop over to the zoo, whether on your own, with a group of friends,

A TOUCHY-FEELY/p.D4

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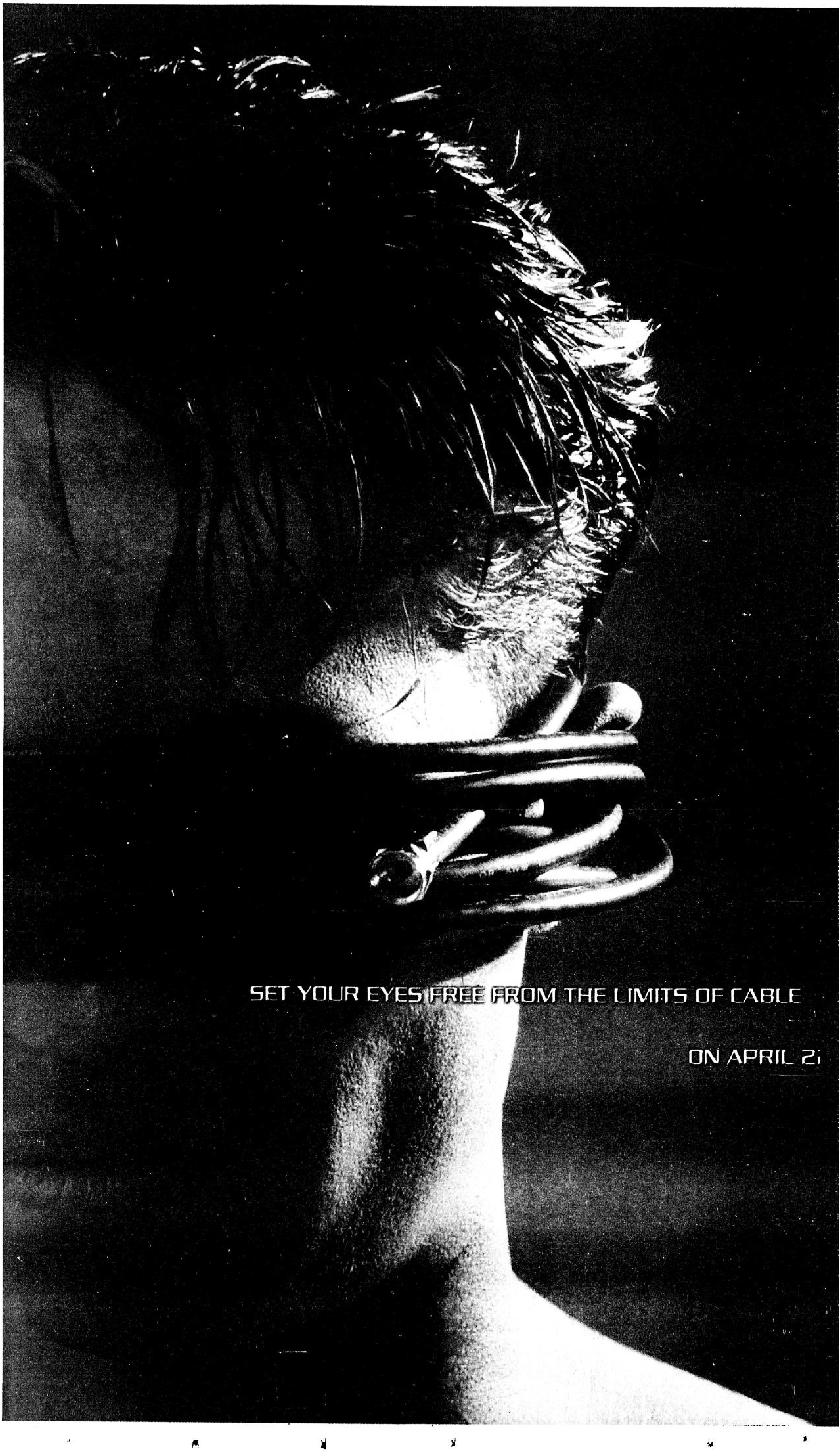
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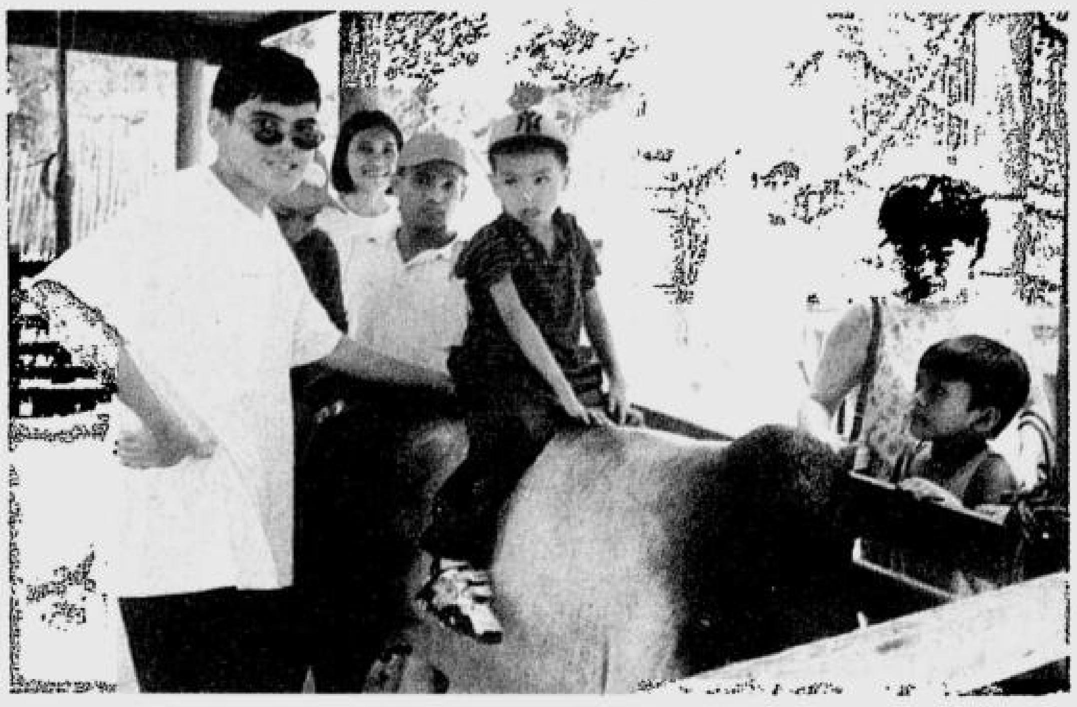
Kenny Rogers Roasters There's Goodness Here.

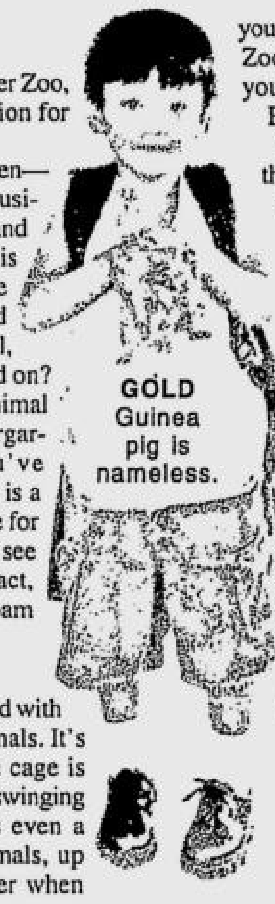
PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO. 0602, SERIES OF 2001



STEVE, the cow, hides his head from new friends and rider from Kanlungan ni Vita, a center for students with special learning needs.

A touchy-feely kind of zoo

(From page D1)



GOLD Guinea pig is nameless.

or with your family. It's called Kinder Zoo, and it's guaranteed fun and education for kiddies and adults alike.

Kinder Zoo is a gift to the children—and their families—from private business. The prime mover, shaker and dreamer for the Kinder Zoo project is Virgie Ramos, who is also the guiding light of Gift Gate, United Colors of Benetton, Swatch and, well, do you have the time to read on and on?

If your guess is that the classy animal habitat's name comes from "kindergarten" (children's garden), you've guessed right. At the same time, it is a kinder (as in nicer) and gentler place for animals. Which is why you will not see the animals trapped in cages. In fact, most of the animals are free to roam about.

Animal play

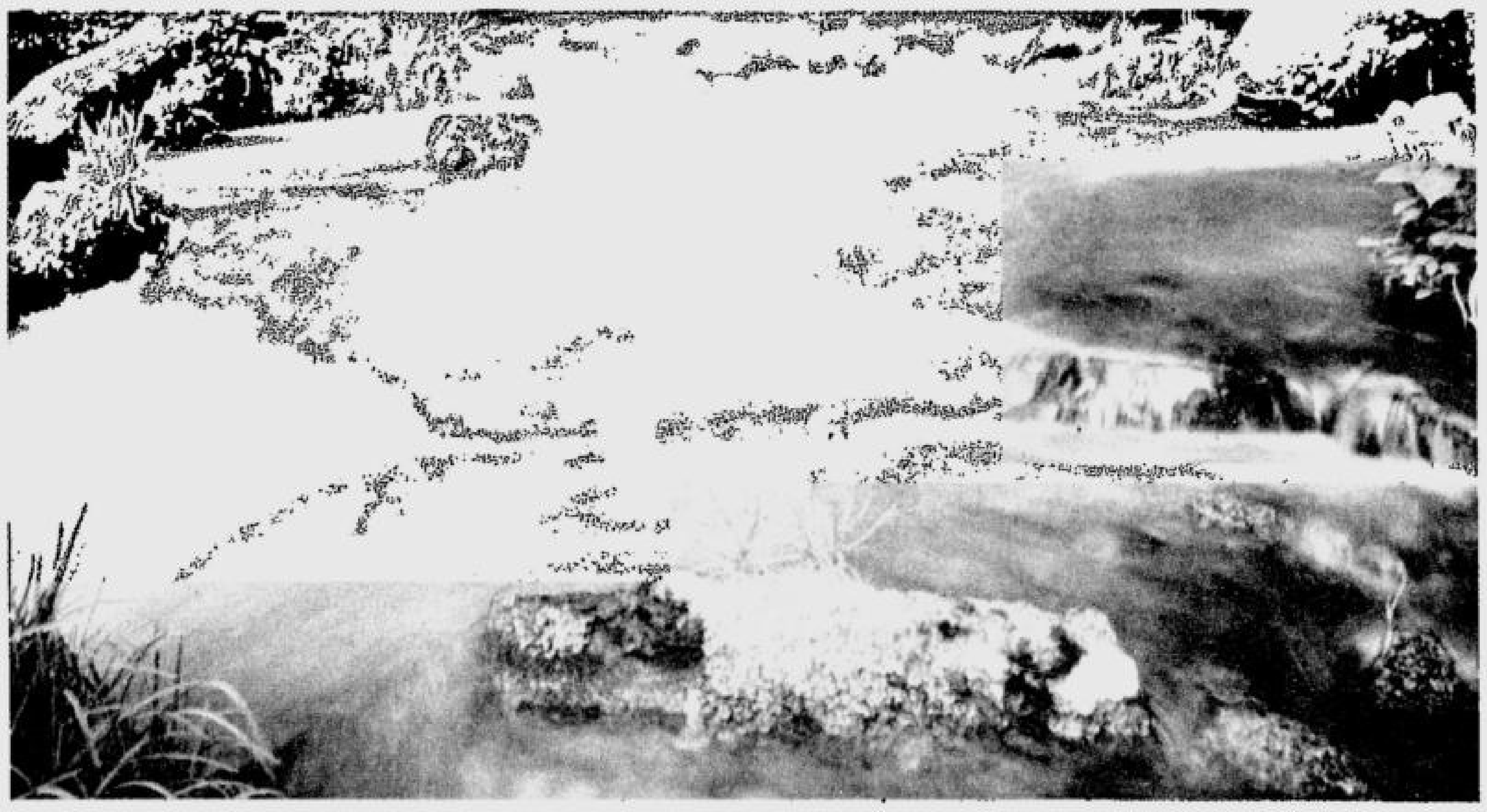
Children will always be fascinated with animals, particularly with live animals. It's fun to pretend the lion behind the cage is Simba, the lion king, or the elephant swinging its trunk is Dumbo. But what is even a bigger thrill is to *be* with the animals, up close and personal. It's even better when you are allowed to touch them. Since Kinder Zoo's animals are placed in open pens, you can interact with them.

But that's not all.

The best part is you not only get to pet the animals but can carry them, feed them, even ride them! The animals are tame and friendly, from the five snorting potbelly pigs to Trisha, the 2 month-old ostrich. You can climb on Steve the cow and let him take you around, depending on how much you weigh, of course. Or you can sit on the tortoise's shelltop. You can feed the fish and the ducks anytime of the day, or bottle-feed the four baby bunnies. Stand like a statue and let Tisoy, the albino snake, wrap himself around your neck, or pose like a scarecrow with the twin lorry birds on your head for a cute photo. See if you can catch the ring-neck chickens or chase the miniature goat and find out which is the more hyper kid, him or you.

Mommies and Daddies need not worry for zookeepers are present to make sure the animals are on their best behavior. Tour guides like

A TOUCHY-FEELY/p.D5



Be honest.
Doesn't mineral-rich water from
Mother Nature's bosom sound
much better than purified tap water from
the heart of Metro Manila?

An old adage reminds us that we are powerless to stop the wheels of progress from turning. The quality of life has improved by leaps and bounds, but not without trade-offs like pollution in the air, land and water.

One consequence urbanization has made painfully clear is the shortage of potable (let alone fresh and natural) water.

As life must go on, we have adapted by filtering, purifying or boiling what comes off the taps. For those who are more discerning about taste, quality and safety, bottled water is the only way to go.

You may be asking yourself at this very minute, "Does healthy, natural water still exist?" The answer is, Yes! Nowhere to be found in most metros, but yes, it does exist.

Sources of all that is pure
The Philippines has been blessed with diverse terrain and resources. In as much as growing communities have put a strain on our country's natural wealth, there are a few places that have been preserved and remain rich sources of things that are pure and natural. Mts. Makiling and Kanlaon are a couple of such places. These mountains are famous for their serenity and beauty as well as their rich natural resources.

It is therefore, no strange coincidence that *VIVA*! NATURAL MINERAL WATER is drawn from these sources. It passes through mineral-rich aquifer - layer of rocks, gravel and sand deep within the mountain's bosom. This is a natural filtering process, which takes years to complete. The result is mineral water that is as pure, natural and healthy.

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These tests take place not just every month or every week but every hour of every day. The result is healthy, safe water you can trust.

All it takes is one phone call to be assured of an uninterrupted supply of *VIVA*! NATURAL MINERAL WATER for your family. They are available in convenient 5-gallon bottles. Free use of dispenser comes with your subscription!

Let's be honest. There is really very little we can do about the future of Metro Manila's drinking water. But isn't it *reassuring to know that you can bring home the goodness of VIVA*! NATURAL MINERAL WATER today?

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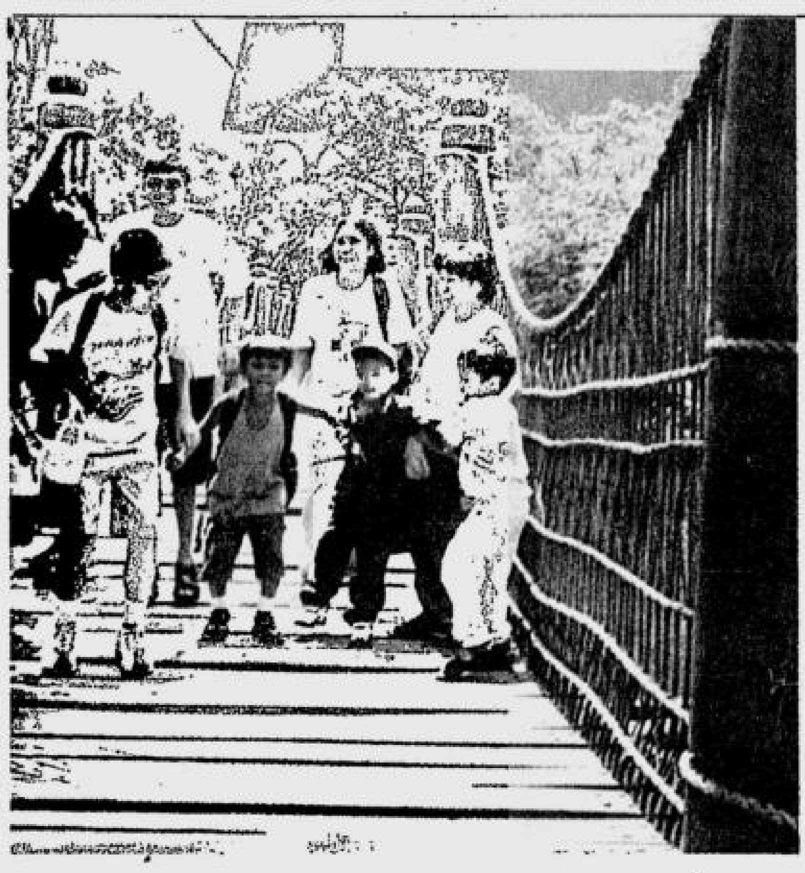
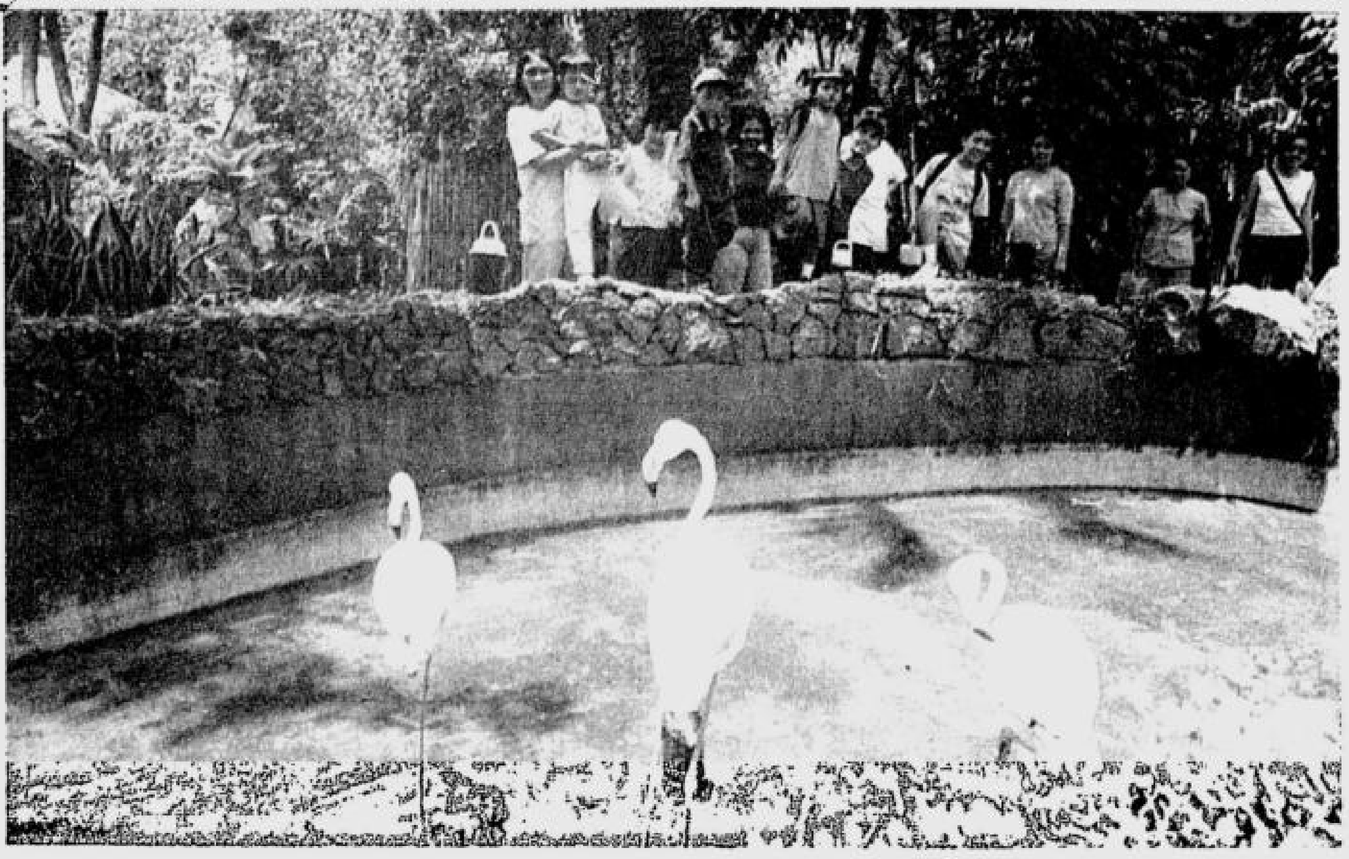


BOUNCING on the log bridge



FLAMINGOS attract a special audience.

PHOTOS BY RANDY HORMILLOSA

A touchy-feely . . .

(From page D4)

Neneng Lubrico fill you in on unique facts about the animals that make trips to this zoo more rewarding and interesting than the usual situation of staring through the wire fence between you and the animals.

First stop in the Kinder Zoo is the Walk-in Aviary where you can feast your eyes on Imperial doves, Bleeding Heart pigeons and Citrus butterflies. Birds that literally wander around the zoo are the four peacocks, while the three flamingos and parrots are tucked in pens, showing off their lovely colors, and ducks circle the pond. Then head over to the turtle and tortoise forts, next to the stables that house farm animals, both the familiar and the not-so: guinea pigs, rabbits, pigs, chickens, a goat and a cow. Lastly, don't forget to cross the jumpy log bridge over the duck pond to get to the fish pool that is awash with colors.

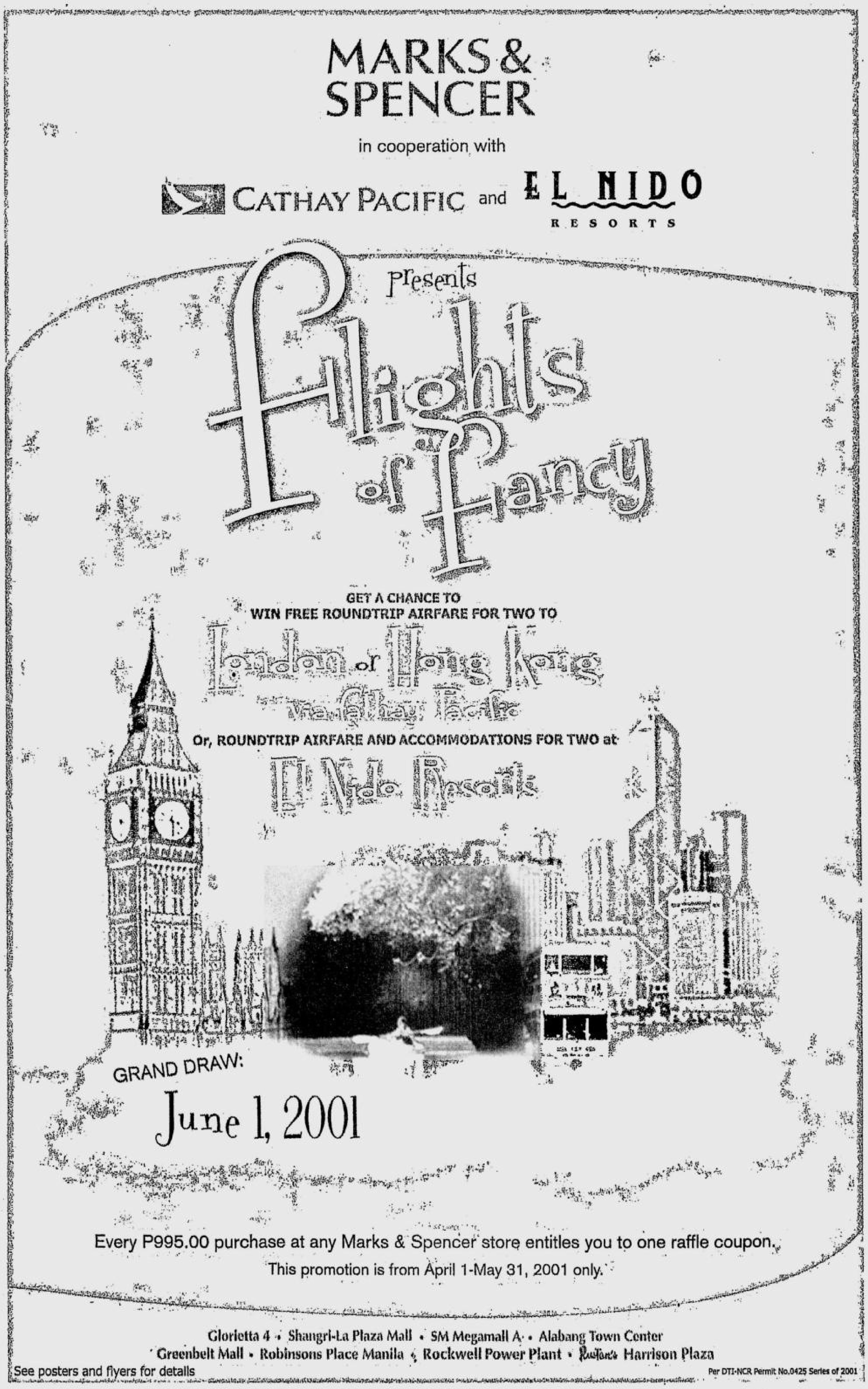
Ideal

Kinder Zoo can be an ideal volunteer center for veterinary students (hint: practicum). It can be a sanctuary for injured animals that children are wont to rescue and bring home to parents who are clueless about what to do with a lame bird or a wounded pup. It can graduate to grander things with the interest of concerned citizens, especially the young who are restless and look

A TOUCHY-FEELY/p.D7

PAT on the back for the tortoise

TISOY, the albino python, finds a friendly shoulder.



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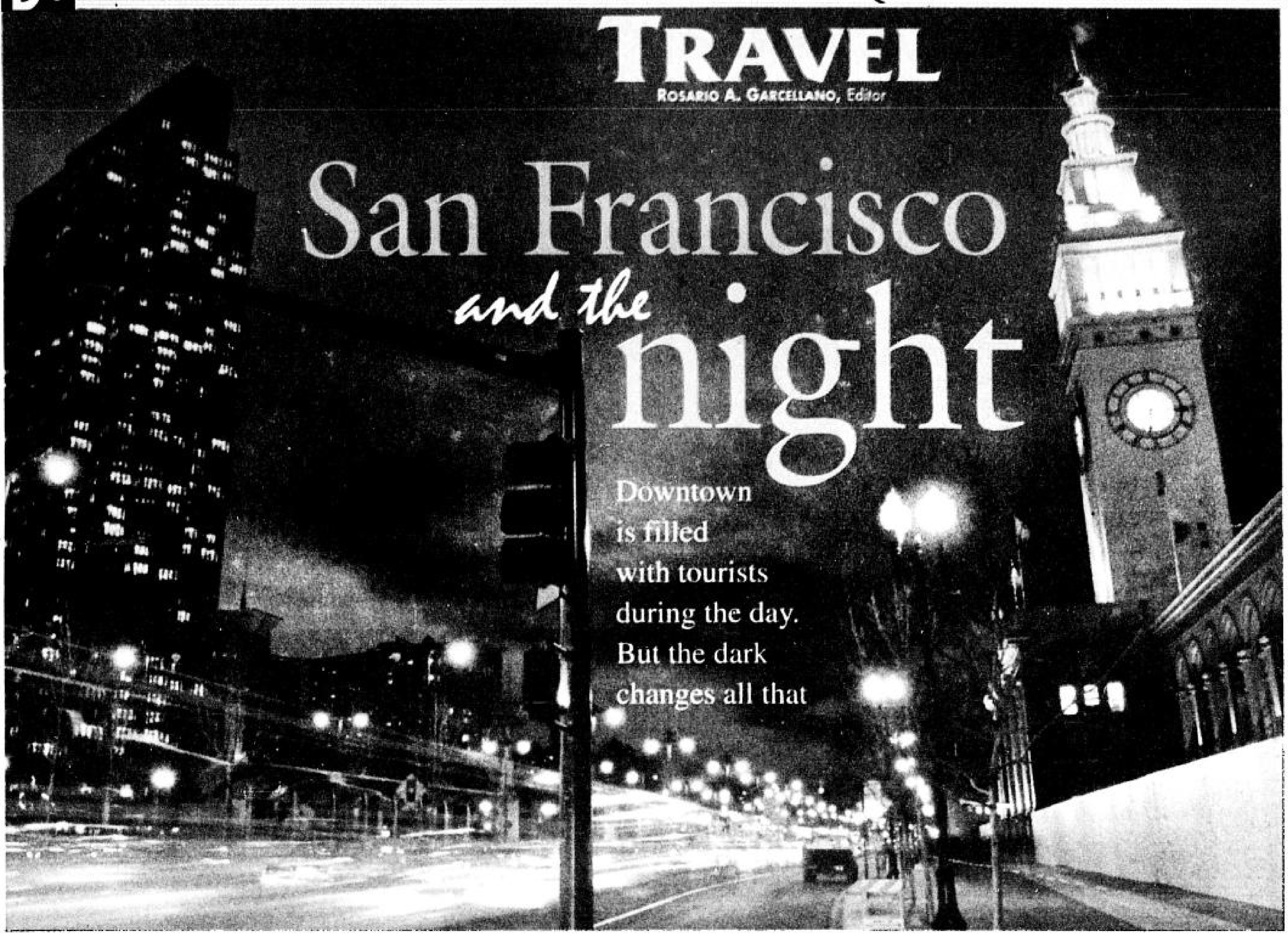
TRAVEL

ROSARIO A. GARCELLANO, Editor



San Francisco *and the* night

Downtown is filled with tourists during the day. But the dark changes all that

LIGHT and shadow transform Embarcadero Street (left) and the Palace of Fine Arts (above).

TEXT AND PHOTOS BY JUDE THADDEUS L. BAUTISTA

EVERYTHING changes at night in San Francisco. During the day, downtown is filled with tourists, yuppies and students trying to get to their destinations. Everyone is caught up in the hustle and bustle of city life.

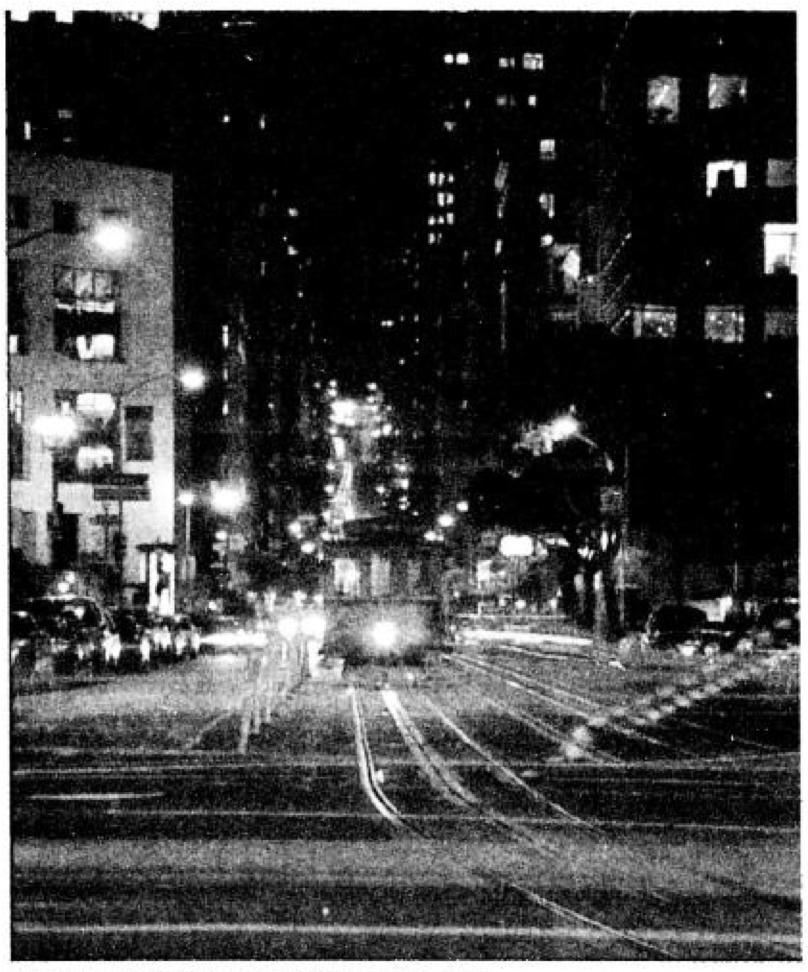
But in the middle of winter the gray, cloudy sky hardly made the landmarks great subjects for photography. The Golden Gate Bridge was not so golden, especially with the fog. The dull, neutral color of the Palace of Fine Arts made it less interesting, I was ready to pack my gear and go, until slowly things started to change. Dusk started to envelop the city.

The lights came on in spite of California's electrical austerity measures. A few spotlights remained on the Palace of Fine Arts' bas-relief sculptures—and that was all I needed. I took shots from across the street at a bus stop, knowing that the passing cars would streak red and yellow light on film.

The California energy crisis is not unlike what we experienced here in the Philippines in the late 1980s and early '90s. But Americans have neither the resilience nor the patience of Filipinos. An hour-long blackout would be announced weeks in advance and would cause the harshest public outcries, with scenarios of panic and chaos from the media. During our power crisis, blackouts would last for days without benefit of an announcement!

As darkness fell on the city, fewer and fewer people could be seen on the streets. Embarcadero, where the Port of San Francisco is located, started to glow from the streetlights. Commuters rushing to catch the last ferry to Larkspur or Sausalito were now gone. The Oakland Bay Bridge, the oft-ignored sister of the Golden Gate, was lit by hundreds of bulbs strung on its suspension wires. Over on Van Ness and California Streets, a cable car was parked silently at the end of its route.

In my last few nights in San Francisco—simply "The City" to Bay Area residents—I wanted to take in a number of good musicals or stage shows. There were quite a few, although not as many, as the ones in the Big Apple. I found out the hard way that tickets cost from $50 to $75 each!



CABLE car calls it a day at Davis and Market.

A ticket to an NBA game in Oakland across the bay is at least $25. Those seats are so high up, you're nearly at the bleachers. (Larry Hughes and Antawn Jamison are exciting young players, but it was just not their season yet. Injuries have plagued Hughes and other key team players.) After going there once, I found that it just wasn't worth watching the Golden State Warriors getting their asses kicked.

Asses of a different sort are easier to find in The City itself. Shows of an erotic nature cost $15 at off-peak hours, and $40 during primetime from 5 p.m. onwards! The Mitchell Brothers' Theater on O'Farrell Street boasts a bevy of beautiful female dancers as eclectic as the city's population. Not having discarded the Filipino habit of converting the cost of dollars into pesos, I decided against watching the expensive musicals.

Feeling cheap, tired, hungry and wanting to call it a night, I walked to the nearest BART (the Bay Area's subway system) station. Just then the sound of a screeching electric guitar pierced the night air. I didn't know what it was at first, and when I got to Market Street, I just followed the direction of the sound.

A man was playing the blues on an electric guitar with a small, battery-operated amplifier. He wore a tie-dyed shirt with a flowery vest and a bandana. It was eerily like watching Jimi Hendrix himself! Behind him was a Jerry Garcia lookalike playing the drums. The bassist beside him had an Afro and a purple suede jacket.

The name Charlie Miranda was scrawled in chalk right in front of "Jimi," which was what passersby were calling him. A crowd was gathering. An old bearded black man was sitting on a grocery cart looking on. His head was slowly moving to the rhythm of the music, just like everyone else.

A donation box covered with a collage of Hendrix photos sat in front of Charlie. After the relatively slow blues song, the band segued to the quicker beat of Bob Dylan's "All Along the Watchtower." Looking at them, getting lost in the music, you couldn't help but feel transported to California's flower-power past.

Young and old people who were walking along the sidewalk were stopping to listen. Miranda didn't just look like Hendrix, he played and sounded like him, too. He'd put the guitar behind his back and keep on playing without missing a note.

The Dylan song was the band's last song for the night, and the last round of donations was given. A girl named Zarah struck up a conversation with me and urged me to go to the next corner, where another "band" was playing.

This one—a bass player and a drummer who rapped and did the vocals—had a cardboard sign that said "New Funk Generation." And its music was just that—a lot of funk and jazz. It played a good "Let's Groove Tonight" by Kool and the Gang.

After their set, the bassist and the drummer packed their equipment into grocery carts. The carts indicated that they, along with a number in their audience, were homeless. I was so enthralled with the experience of discovering these extremely talented street performers that I came back the next night.

REVELERS "get down" on the street to the music of Charlie Miranda.

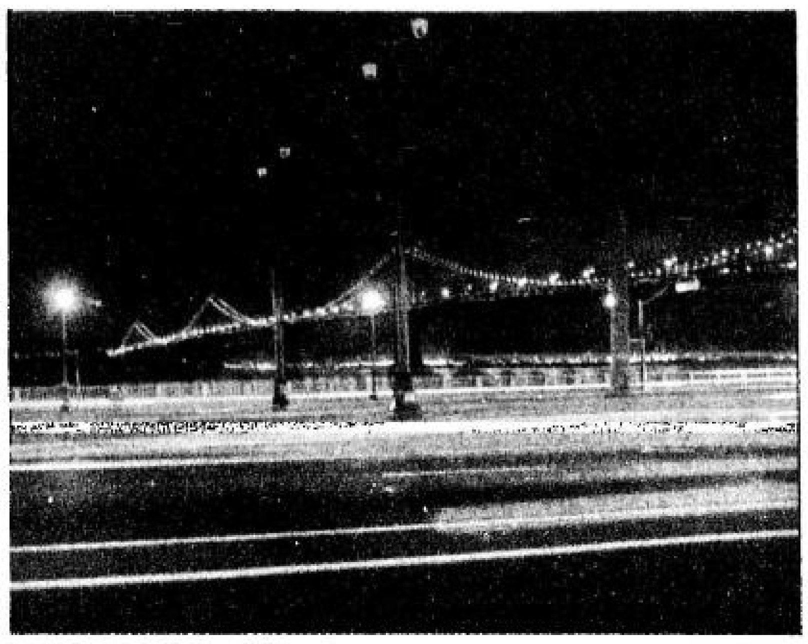
LARRY Hunt shows off an unorthodox drum solo.

When I arrived at their usual corner of Geary and Market, I found Charlie Miranda jamming with the New Funk Generation! A sign that said "Drummer need help find a room" confirmed that, at least for the moment, he was homeless. They were playing an upbeat tune I couldn't identify, except that it sounded like a Hendrix tune.

That night, there were more people crowding to watch them. A hobo in a cap pulled a middle-aged white woman, who was moving to the beat of the music, to the front. He danced with her, twirling her around, as she laughed, looking like she was having the time of her life! When she got close to Charlie he removed the blue bandana he was wearing and wrapped it around her head. After the song and the applause, the hobo thanked the woman and said emphatically, "She got down with me! She got down with me! She got down with me! She got down with me!"

What followed was a stronger instrumental. The bass just kept on laying the rhythm—badump-badump-bum-bum. Charlie did his thing, with the lead guitar screeching and screaming. The drums stayed in the background with a rapid-fire succession of beats. After the long guitar rifts, the drummer, Larry Hunt, got up and started hitting things around him with his sticks. He was hitting the pavement, the buckets, the boxes, and even a lamppost—anything that made a sound! As his drum solo was about to end, a fire truck came roaring through the street with its siren sounding. Interestingly, it didn't ruin the music but, in a way, enhanced it. The long woo and the doppler effect provided a transition for the bass to get into another funk rhythm.

I remember reading an article in the INQUIRER about San Francisco a few months before I got there. The writer, who was learning photography, chose to shoot the homeless. I'm not about to say that the existence of the homeless is any less of a daily struggle. I'm not about to comment on the counter-culture of people who choose to live on the streets. All I'm saying is that maybe, to really know The City, you should see it at night.



THE OAKLAND Bay Bridge glows.

SAND AND SEA

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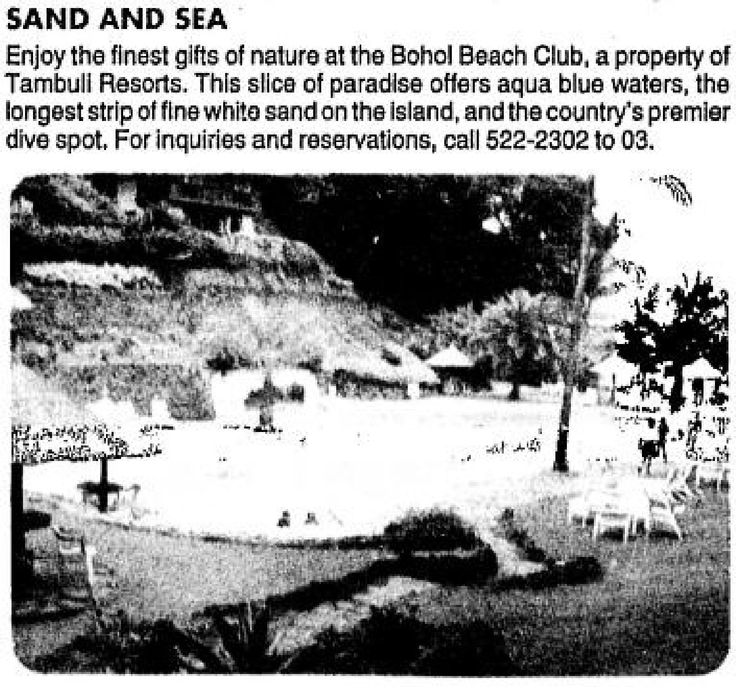

PUNTA BALUARTE ON WEEKDAYS

Why think only in terms of a weekend getaway? Punta Baluarte in Calatagan, Batangas, offers a giveaway rate of P1,500 net for two persons (local residents only) on weekdays this summer, inclusive of an overnight stay, breakfast for two, and use of the swimming pools and certain sports facilities. Weekend packages, of course, are still available at P2,750 for two. For inquiries, call 899-4546 to 50 or visit the hotel-resort's office at the 5th floor, Enzo Bldg., 399 Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City.

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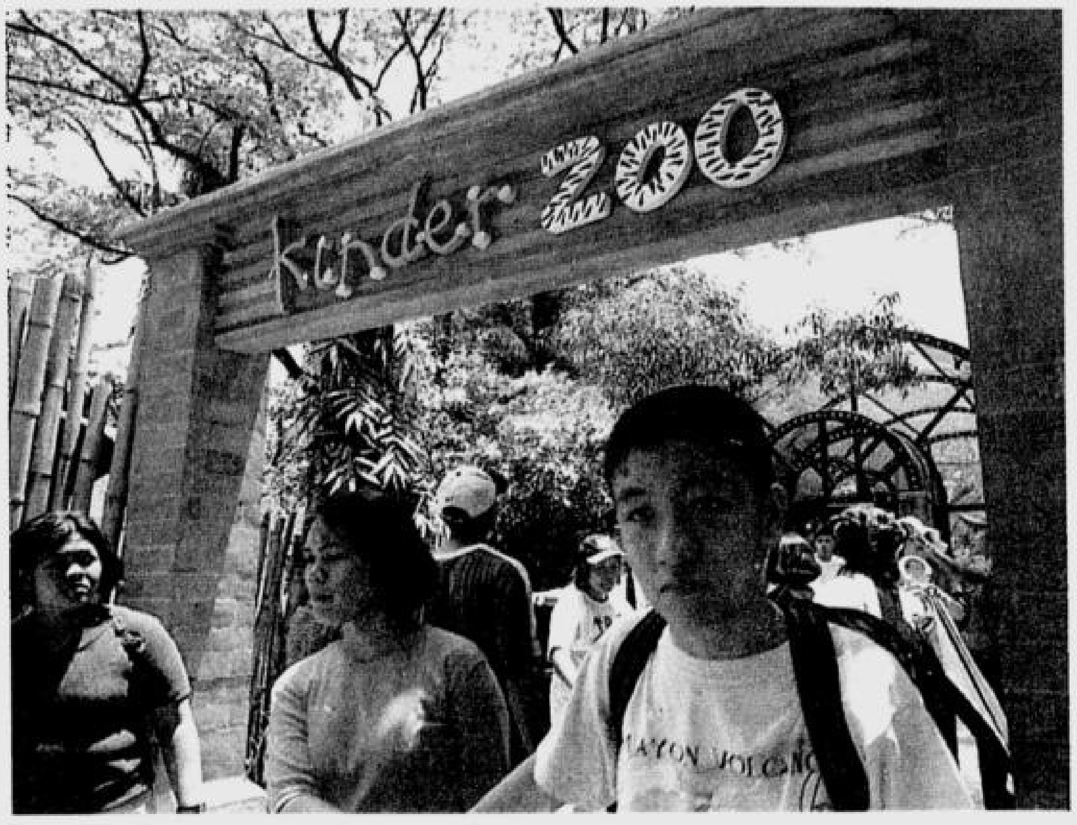
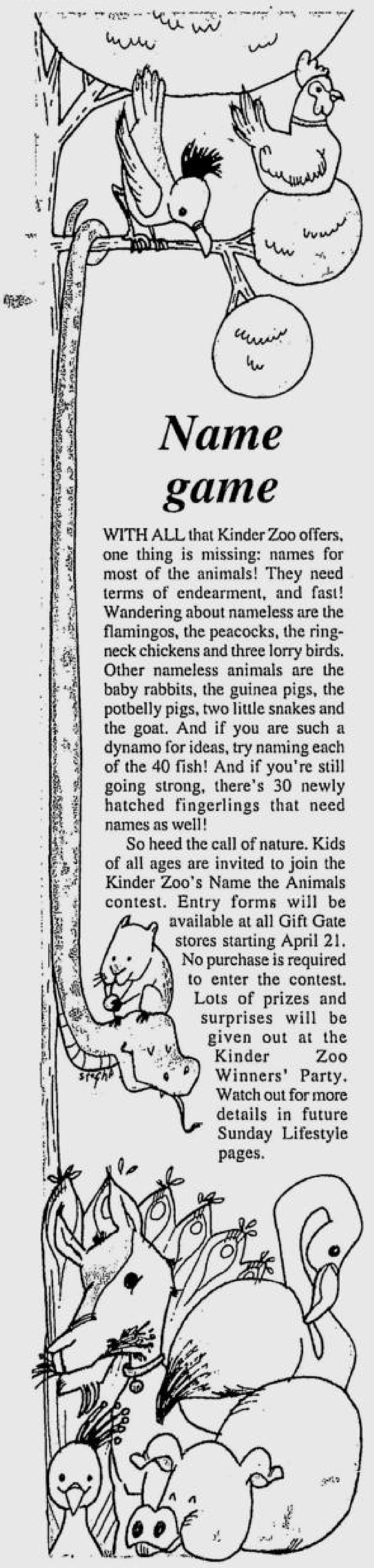


A touchy-feely . . .

(From page D5)

ing for a better way to kill time. The possibilities are endless, but for now, the Kinder Zoo is a simple haven for nature and animal lovers, for families looking to bond together. If you can take your young kids outing only once this season, go to the Kinder Zoo and rediscover with them your animal friends.

Kinder Zoo is open from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. every day. Entrance fee for Kinder Zoo is P40 for children/adults; kids below 3 years old get in free. Kinder Zoo offers group discounts for 20+ persons at P34/head. For schools on exposure trips, teachers and staff are admitted for free. Since Kinder Zoo is located inside the Manila Zoo, you will need to pay entrance fee for the Manila Zoo of P6 for adults, P4 for children.



Name game

WITH ALL that Kinder Zoo offers, one thing is missing: names for most of the animals! They need terms of endearment, and fast! Wandering about nameless are the flamingos, the peacocks, the ring-neck chickens and three lorry birds. Other nameless animals are the baby rabbits, the guinea pigs, the potbelly pigs, two little snakes and the goat. And if you are such a dynamo for ideas, try naming each of the 40 fish! And if you're still going strong, there's 30 newly hatched fingerlings that need names as well!

So heed the call of nature. Kids of all ages are invited to join the Kinder Zoo's Name the Animals contest. Entry forms will be available at all Gift Gate stores starting April 21. No purchase is required to enter the contest. Lots of prizes and surprises will be given out at the Kinder Zoo Winners' Party. Watch out for more details in future Sunday Lifestyle pages.

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

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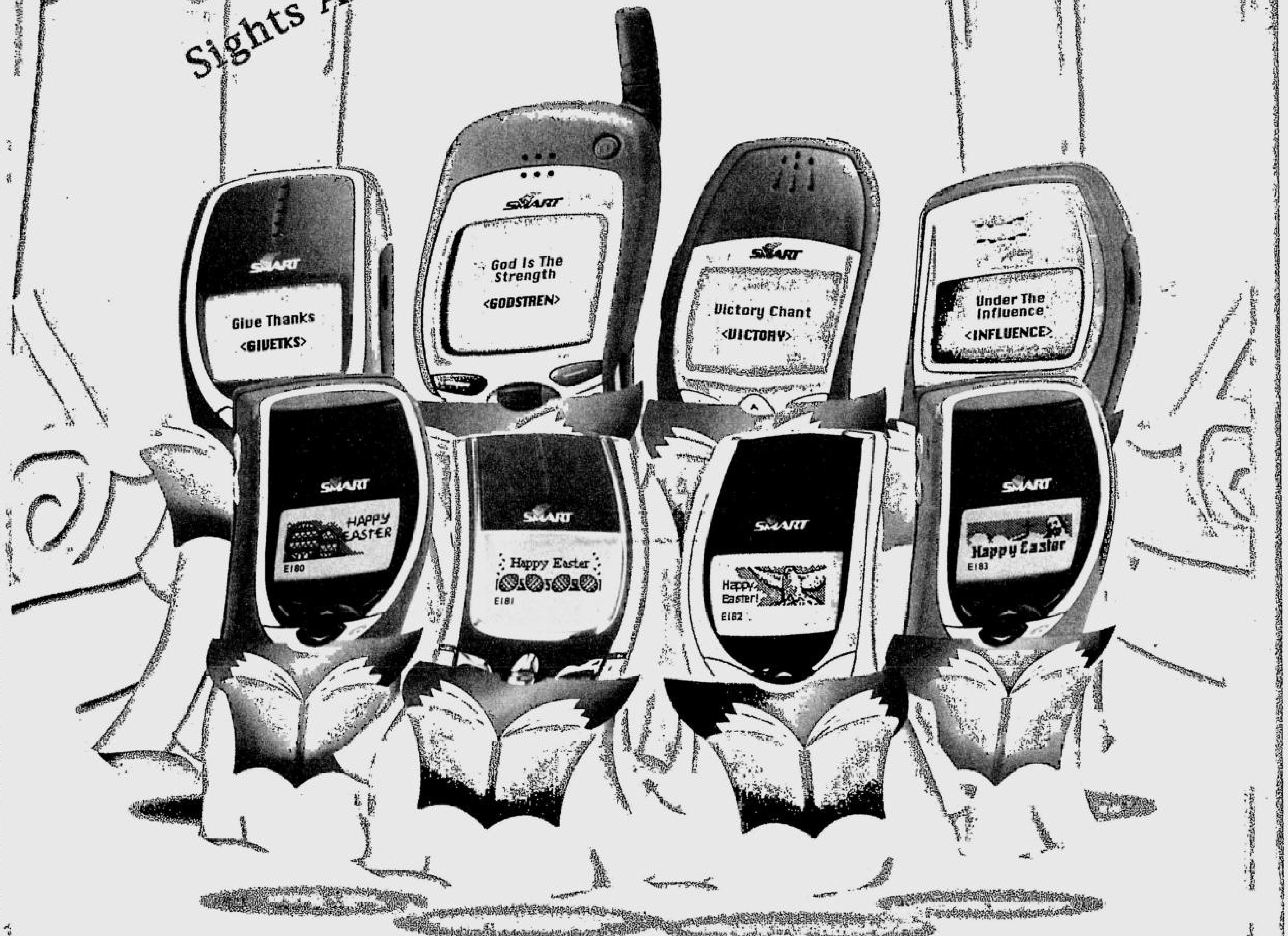
HELLOLUJAH!

Sights And Sounds To Inspire You This Easter.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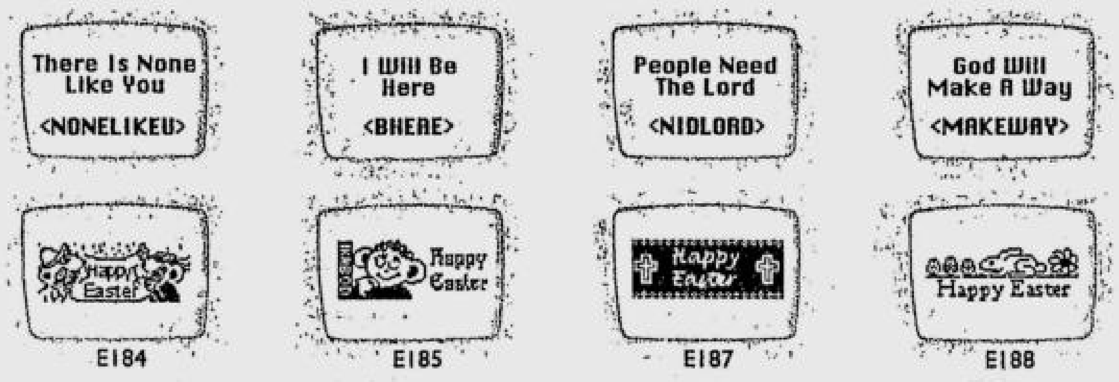
There Is None Like You
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I Will Be Here
<BHERE>
People Need The Lord
<NIDLORD>
God Will Make A Way
<MAKEWAY>
Happy Easter
E184
Happy Easter
E185
Happy Easter
E187
Happy Easter
E188

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Sunday LIFESTYLE

WHAT'S INSIDE

- **Sotheby's Quek Chin Yeow is not so jaded after all** (E6)
- **Hopes for a dying river** (E7)

Your client prefers seafood.
Make sure you'll only be itching for the contract she will sign.
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Schering-Plough Corporation A Leader In Allergy And Dermatology
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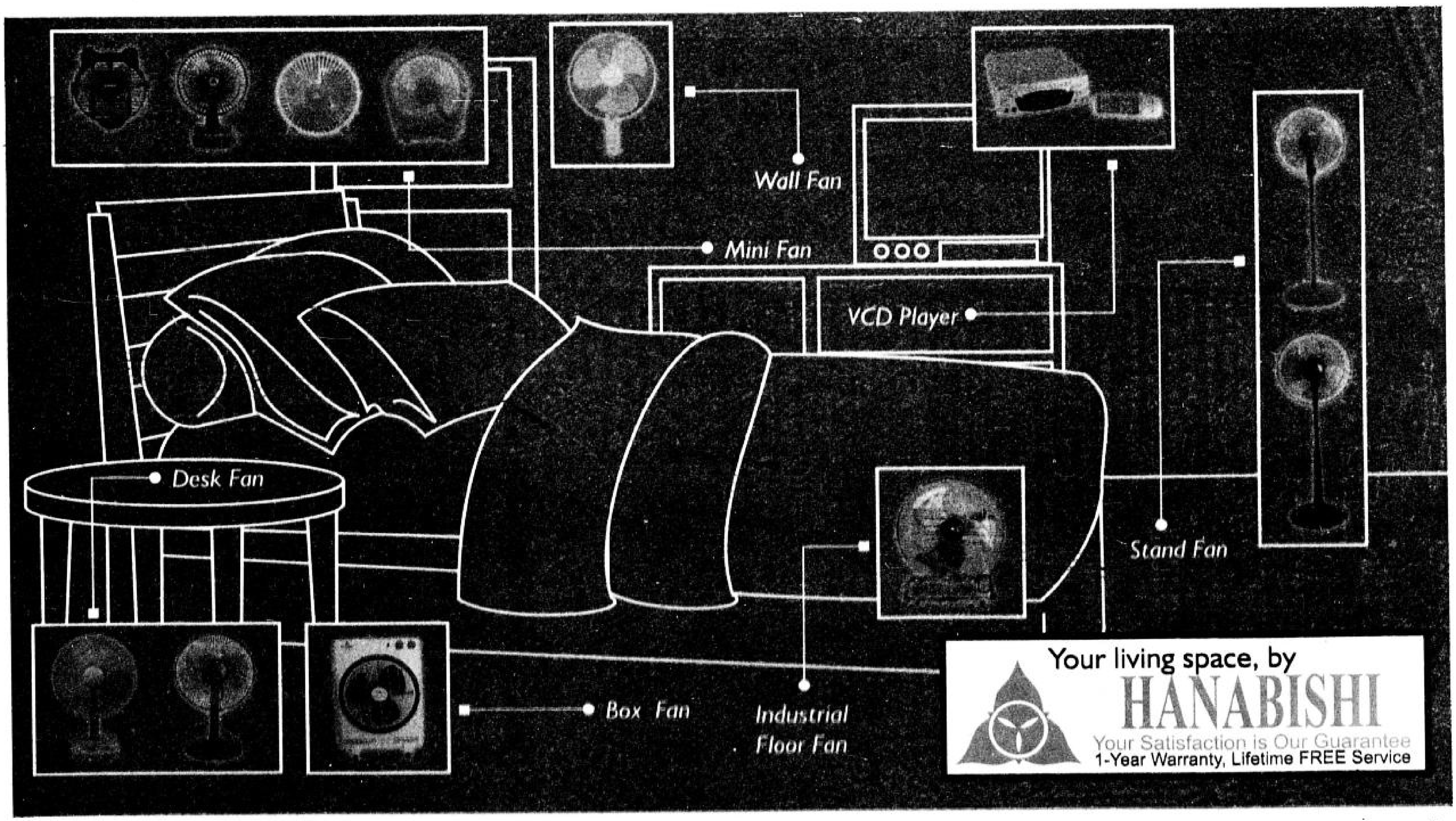
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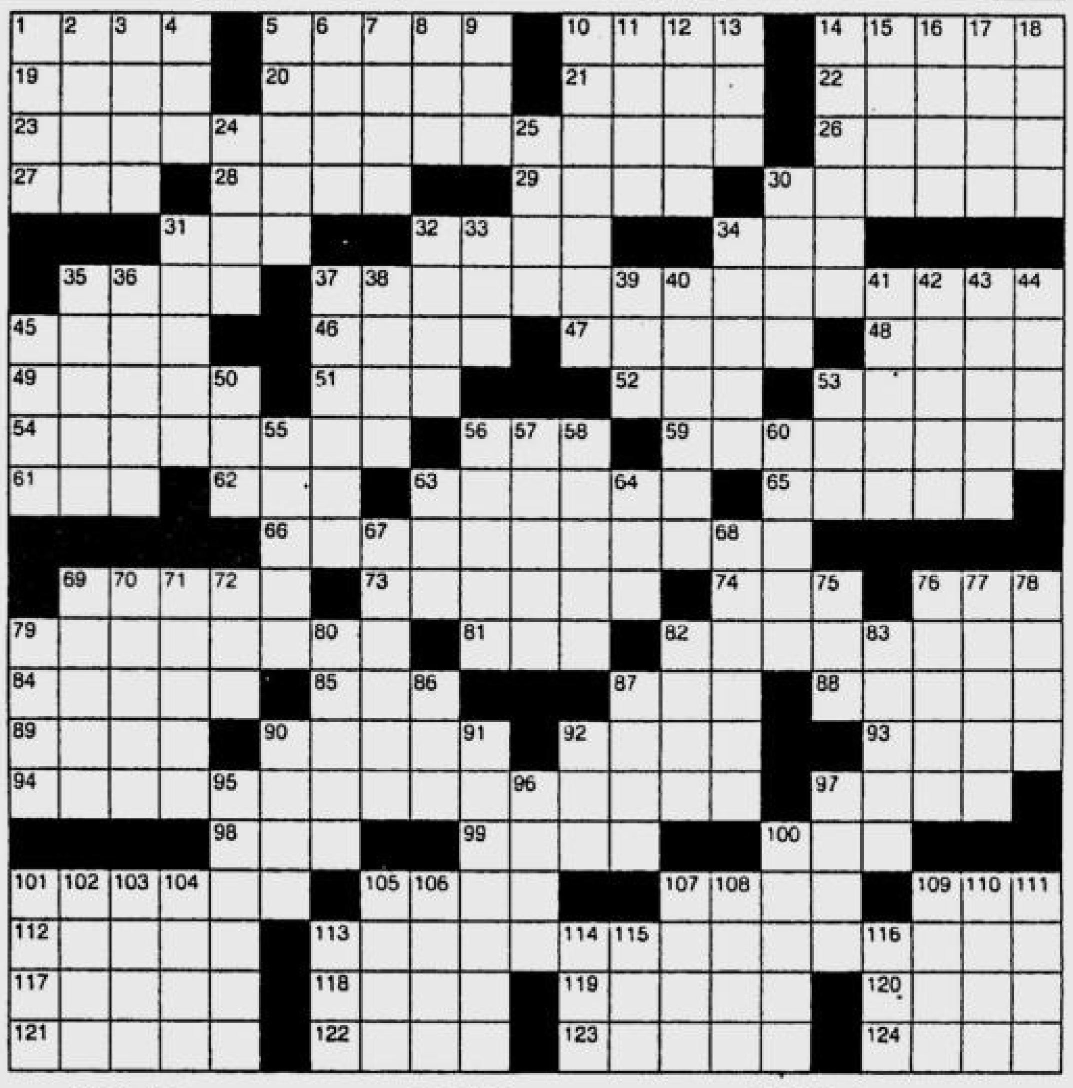
IGA KEY PEOPLE: Coca-Cola Phils. division president James Harting, IGA-Asia director Cleo Johnson and IGA-Asia president Vincent Kong

OFFICERS of Coca-Cola Bottlers Phils. and Unilever Phils. during the RSC-IGA launching of the partnership

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

SELF-POSSESSED



ACROSS
1 Myron Floren's boss
5 Malcolm- — Warner
10 Priam's kingdom
14 Daddy duck
19 Adams or Sedgwick
20 Napoleon's fate
21 Something to skip?
22 De Valera of Ireland
23 Start of a remark by Dan Post
26 Rectify
27 Sprinted
28 Part of a suit
29 Pastoral poem
30 Sherbet flavor
31 Norm
32 Rib —
34 One of "Them!"
35 Dirty
37 Part 2 of remark
45 Colleague of Dolly and Loretta
46 Mature
47 Peachy-keen
48 Plumb crazy
49 "Maria —" ('41 song)
51 College growth
52 Before, to Byron
53 Mendicant monk
54 Utter
56 See 90 Across
59 Dispute
61 Pigment
62 Hibachi residue
63 Oaf
65 "Love — the Ruins" ('75 film)
66 Part 3 of remark
69 "I Got a Name" singer
73 Add info
74 Mil. group
76 Genesis vessel
79 "Little —" ('64 hit)
81 "Be my guest!"
82 God with a trident
84 Storms
85 — Dinh Diem
87 Paw part
88 Jergens or Astaire
89 Field of knowledge
90 With 56 Across, common appetizer
92 Chimney part
93 Duel tool
94 Part 4 of remark
97 Domino or Waller
98 Herriot title start
99 "Excuse me"
100 Western st.
101 Mugabe of Zimbabwe
105 Whetstone
107 Out of control
109 She's a sheep date
112 Venerate
113 End of remark
117 "The Kiss" sculptor
118 One of the Waughs
119 "East of Eden" director
120 Imminent
121 Upright
122 Michael of "Cabaret"
123 Unkempt
124 "Vissi d'—" ("Tosca" aria)

DOWN
1 Sport
2 O'Brien or Skinner
3 Mortgage, e.g.
4 Beer barrel
5 Baseball's Derek
6 Shaft
7 Freshen a fuchsia
8 Cover girl Carol
9 Kapaa keepsake
10 Auto transaction
11 Actress Schneider
12 Fall birthstone
13 Craving
14 Lack
15 "— Lama Ding Dong" ('61 tune)
16 Prayer finale
17 Hong —
18 "The NeverEnding Story" author
24 — Office
25 Regret audibly
30 In the know
31 Nero's instrument
32 Duplicate
33 Savored the seitan
34 Fall flower
35 David of "Dark Shadows"
36 Too tubby
37 Twist and turn
38 Bee flat?
39 Born
40 You'll get a kick out of it
41 Texas landmark
42 Symbol
43 Buttercream, e.g.
44 Laramie or Sumter
45 Devour Dostoevsky
50 — carte
53 "Fee, Fi, Fo, — . . ."
55 Leading man?
56 Container
57 Arm bones
58 Annie of "Designing Women"
60 Jets and Sharks
63 Opening
64 UK honor
67 Delayed
68 Worn down
69 Cugat consort
70 Mississippi or Missouri
71 New York city
72 Bk. offerings
75 It's in the bag
76 Skilled
77 Romeo and Juliet
78 Banjo locale
79 Grouch
80 Register
82 Hogan or Hindemith
83 Perfect
86 Word with baby or snake
87 Homer's fruit
90 Sensed
91 New Jersey town
92 Adversary
95 One who no's best?
96 "What a relief!"
97 Charlatan
100 Uncool
101 Hard to find
102 Miasma
103 Portend
104 Rohmer or Carmen
105 Sign of sanctity
106 "Glad All —" ('64 hit)
107 Carpenter's tool
108 Knight's quaff
109 Kind of pitcher
110 "Huh?"
111 Bronte heroine
113 Horse hash
114 Endorses
115 Duncan's denial
116 "Jurassic Park" stuff

ANSWER ON PAGE G3

Going international

SHOPPERS may have observed more organized racks and easier-to-locate sections of grocery items at Robinsons Supermarket. That's because Robinsons is now the newest ally of the highly prestigious International Grocers Alliance (IGA) and has adopted world-class trends.

IGA is the world's largest voluntary independent supermarket network with over 4,000 stores worldwide, and Robinsons Supermarket is the latest to carry its logo that bears the universal sign of quality, value and hometown hospitality. Robinsons will benefit from IGA's global network of 24 licensed distribution companies that provide logistics and retail services, large-volume prices, continuous supply of merchandise, lower inventory costs and regional and national promotions, advertising and merchandising.

The partnership, launched recently at the Manila Galleria Suites, was attended by top officials of both companies, led by James Go, president of Robinsons Retail Group, and Dr. Thomas S. Haggai, IGA chair and CEO. IGA's Vincent Kong and Cleo Johnson also graced the event, together with James Harting, division president of Coca-Cola Philippines, and other trade partners such as Unilever, P&G, URC, Johnson & Johnson, among others. Also seen during the launch were Robina Gokongwei-Pe, senior VP of Robinsons Department Store; Ronnie Ong, general manager of Robinsons Supermarket, and Frederick Go, CEO and COO of Robinsons Land Corp.

ROBINSONS Supermarket district manager Johnson Go and Robinsons Dept. Store senior vice president Robina Gokongwei-Pe

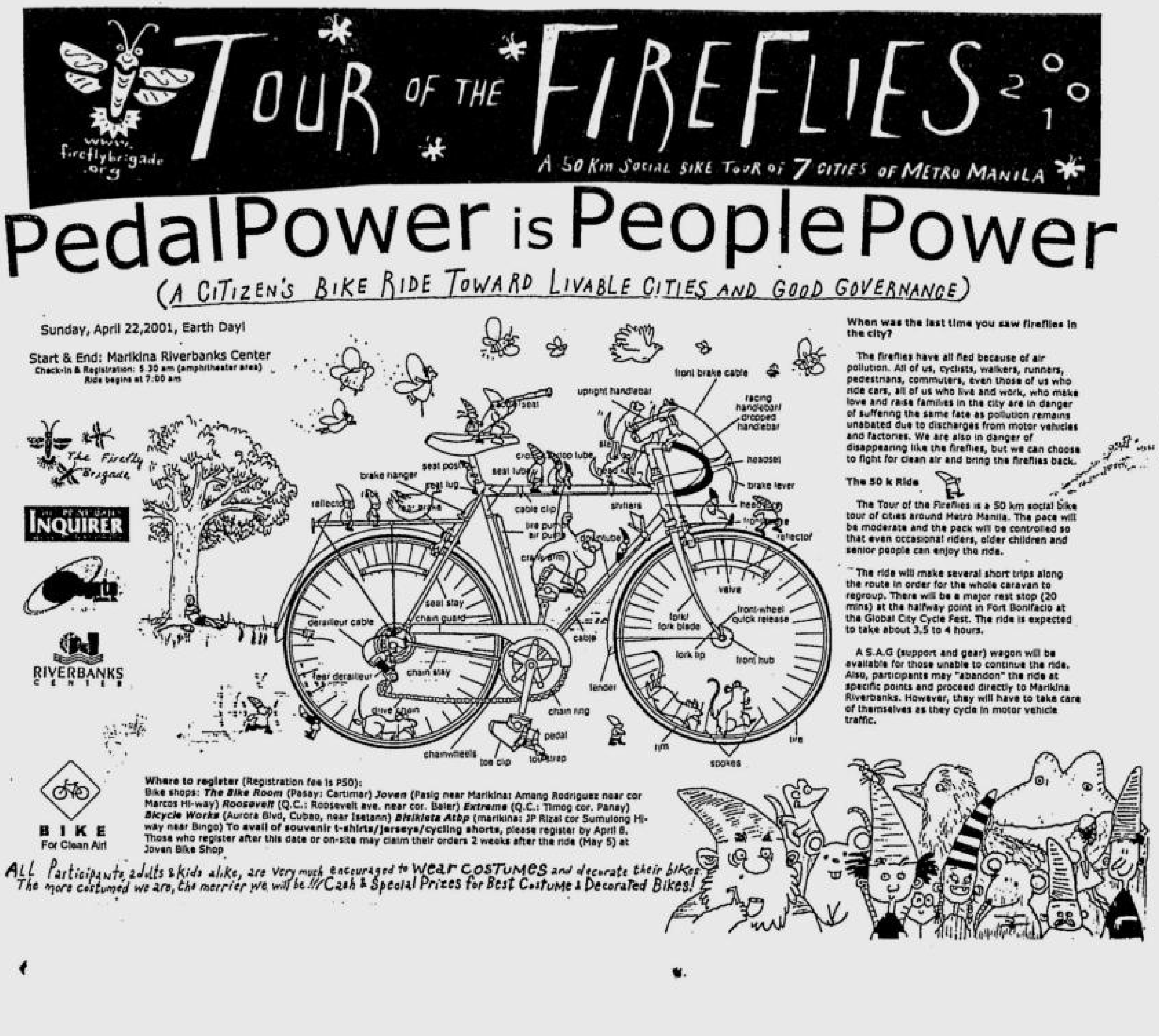
WALTERMART president Wilson Lim

REPRESENTATIVES from Allied Domecq Phils. with Hope Gokongwei-Tang (right), Robinsons Dept. Stores purchasing manager

ROBINSONS
ERMARKET
and
IGA
YOUR
OMETOWN PR
UPERMA
UP

IGA chair and CEO Dr. Thomas Haggai and Robinsons Supermarket president James Go

AL Bacleon of URC, RS general manager Ronnie Ong and Ron Menhennet of Big R



TOUR OF THE FIREFLIES 2001
www.fireflybrigade.org
A 50 Km Social Bike Tour of 7 Cities of Metro Manila

PedalPower is PeoplePower
(A Citizen's Bike Ride Toward Livable Cities and Good Governance)

Sunday, April 22,2001, Earth Day!

Start & End: Marikina Riverbanks Center
Check-in & Registration: 5:30 am (amphitheater area)
Ride begins at 7:00 am

When was the last time you saw fireflies in the city?

The fireflies have all fled because of air pollution. All of us, cyclists, walkers, runners, pedestrians, commuters, even those of us who ride cars, all of us who live and work, who make love and raise families in the city are in danger of suffering the same fate as pollution remains unabated due to discharges from motor vehicles and factories. We are also in danger of disappearing like the fireflies, but we can choose to fight for clean air and bring the fireflies back.

The 50 k Ride

The Tour of the Fireflies is a 50 km social bike tour of cities around Metro Manila. The pace will be moderate and the pack will be controlled so that even occasional riders, older children and senior people can enjoy the ride.

The ride will make several short trips along the route in order for the whole caravan to regroup. There will be a major rest stop (20 mins) at the halfway point in Fort Bonifacio at the Global City Cycle Fest. The ride is expected to take about 3.5 to 4 hours.

A S.A.G (support and gear) wagon will be available for those unable to continue the ride. Also, participants may "abandon" the ride at specific points and proceed directly to Marikina Riverbanks. However, they will have to take care of themselves as they cycle in motor vehicle traffic.

Where to register (Registration fee is P50):
Bike shops: *The Bike Room* (Pasay: Cartimar) *Joven* (Pasig near Marikina: Amang Rodriguez near cor Marcos Hi-way) *Roosevelt* (Q.C.: Roosevelt ave. near cor. Baler) *Extreme* (Q.C.: Timog cor. Panay) *Bicycle Works* (Aurora Blvd, Cubao, near Isetann) *Bisikleta Atbp* (marikina: JP Rizal cor Sumulong Hi-way near Bingo) To avail of souvenir t-shirts/jerseys/cycling shorts, please register by April 8. Those who register after this date or on-site may claim their orders 2 weeks after the ride (May 5) at Joven Bike Shop

ALL Participants, adults & kids alike, are very much encouraged to wear costumes and decorate their bikes. The more costumed we are, the merrier we will be!!! Cash & Special Prizes for Best Costume & Decorated Bikes!

The Firefly Brigade
INQUIRER
RIVERBANKS CENTER
BIKE For Clean Air!

Here, there and everywhere

TEESAW

Raul Teehankee

PERIPATETIC businesswoman **Jane Yu** celebrated her birthday a fortnight ago at Le Soufflé with flowing red and white wine, delicious hors d'oeuvres and an interesting mix of civil society sans politicians. All the "politicos" are all hot on the campaign trail.

The former owner of Mondos at The Fort has been jetting in and out of Manila from London and vice-versa. Why? I guess to visit a friend in London and to keep in touch with other associates and business partners in Manila.

Jane Yu, seen here, there and everywhere.

CELEBRATOR Jane Yu with Le Soufflé owner, Billy King

ISABEL Rivas

ROSANNA Peña

CARMI Martin

ED ROXAS, Manoling Moraza, Louie Ysmael and Iñaki Ugarte

ZAPHIRE bares her back.

BALIKBAYAN brothers from Down Under—Brian, Dexter and Philip Villa Hermosa

PACQUI and Lilibeth Campos

JOY Wassmer and Vicky Perez de Tagle

ROSANNA Escudero and Paolo Prieto

RUSSEL Sobrapeña and Butch Wassmer

JOHNNY Velasquez and Maripi Muscat

SPANKY Monserrat and Betchay Santos

The Ayala Malls relive the fantasy with the Disney Princesses.

It's Time To Remember The Magic

Cinderella, Snow White, Sleeping Beauty,
and their princes in full splendor, live on stage.

AYALA CENTER MAKATI

MUSICAL MEET 'N GREET :
April 15: 5pm
April 19 - 22: 1pm, 3pm, 5pm, 7pm

MAGICAL ATTRACTIONS:
April 15 - May 31
"The Little Mermaid" Under the Sea
"Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs"
House of Mirrors
"Beauty and the Beast"
Grand Ballroom

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

MUSICAL MEET 'N GREET:
April 26 - 29, May 1:
11:30am, 2pm, 3:30pm, 5:30pm

MAGICAL ATTRACTIONS:
April 16 - May 1 Activity Center
May 4 - 31 Corte delas Palmas
"Beauty and the Beast" Library
"Cinderella" Enchanted Carriage
"The Little Mermaid" Seashell

AYALA CENTER CEBU

MUSICAL MEET 'N GREET:
May 4, 5, & 6:
11:30am, 2pm, 3:30pm, 5:30pm

AYALA CENTER
GLORIETTA • GREENBELT

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

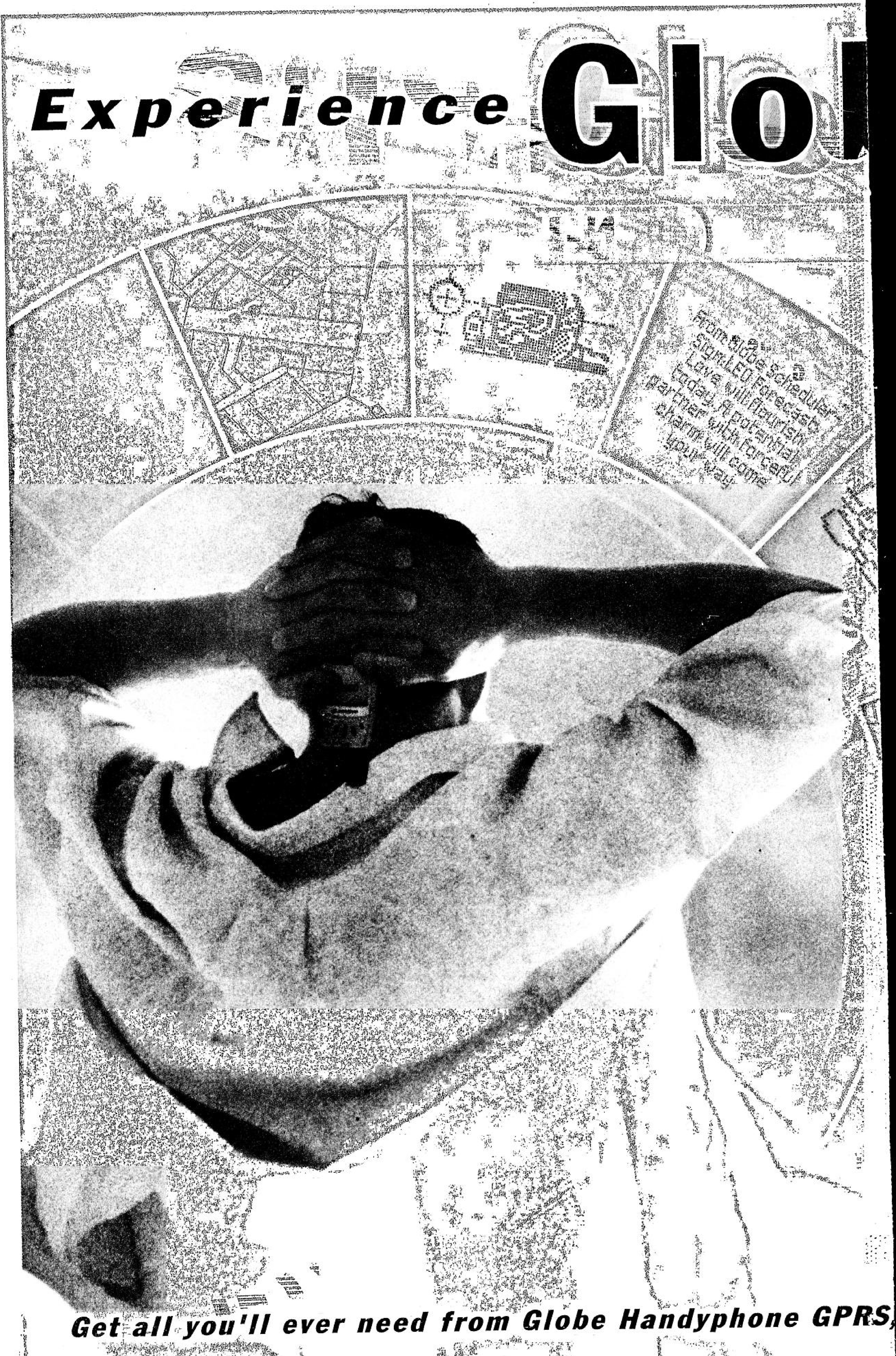
AYALA CENTER
CEBU

The Ayala mall Events

MANDARIN ORIENTAL
MANILA

Meet the Disney Princesses at the Captain's Bar, Mandarin Oriental, Manila on April 15, Easter Sunday at 1:00 pm. Call 7508888 for inquiries.

Apple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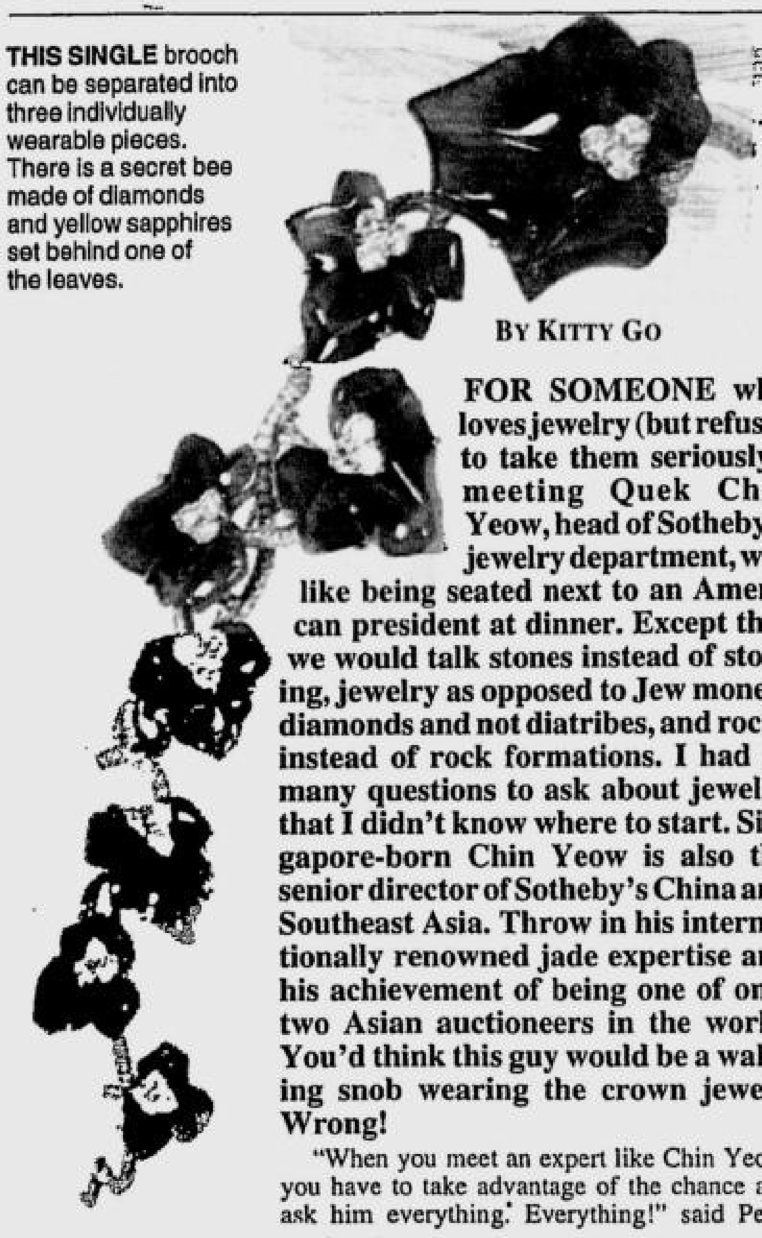
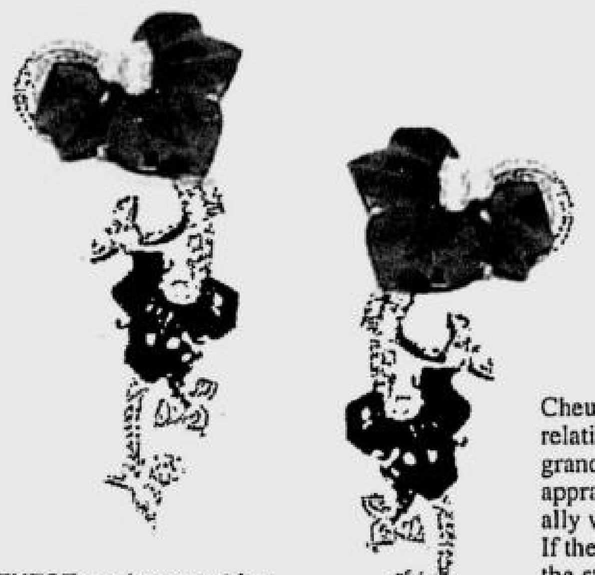
A man who knows his jewelry

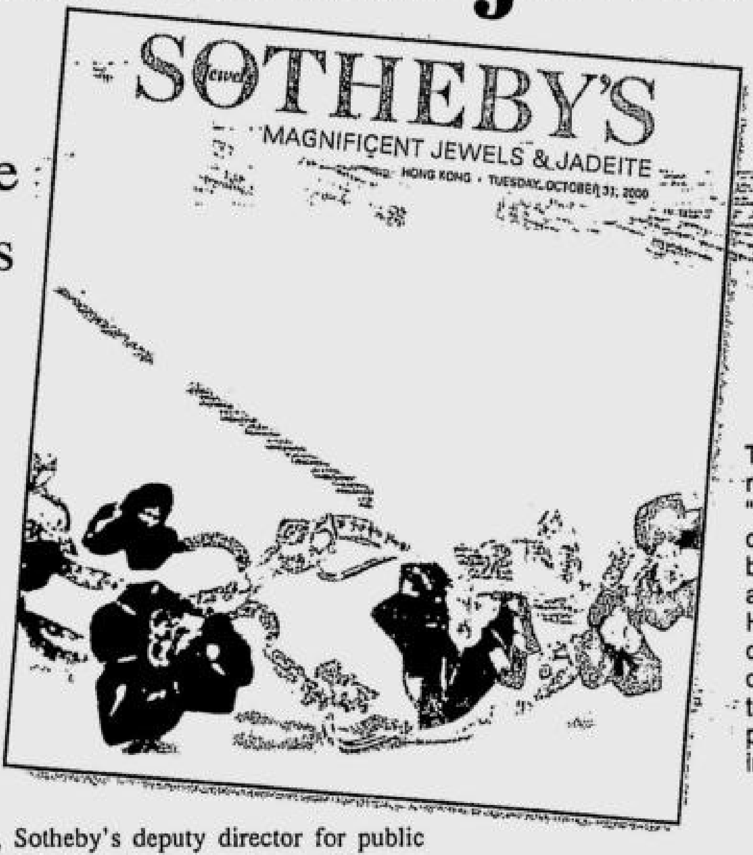
Warm and flamboyant, Quek Chin Yeow erases the stigma of auction houses as stuffy institutions


THIS SINGLE brooch can be separated into three individually wearable pieces. There is a secret bee made of diamonds and yellow sapphires set behind one of the leaves.

By Kitty Go

FOR SOMEONE who loves jewelry (but refuses to take them seriously), meeting Quek Chin Yeow, head of Sotheby's jewelry department, was like being seated next to an American president at dinner. Except that we would talk stones instead of stoning, jewelry as opposed to Jew money, diamonds and not diatribes, and rocks instead of rock formations. I had so many questions to ask about jewelry that I didn't know where to start. Singapore-born Chin Yeow is also the senior director of Sotheby's China and Southeast Asia. Throw in his internationally renowned jade expertise and his achievement of being one of only two Asian auctioneers in the world. You'd think this guy would be a walking snob wearing the crown jewels. Wrong!


THESE earrings went for HK$800,000 in the Jadite sale last October 2000.


SOTHEBY'S
Jewels
MAGNIFICENT JEWELS & JADEITE
HONG KONG · TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2000

THE PIECE de resistance of the "Promesse" collaboration between Sotheby's and Christian Dior Haute Joaillierie, designed by Victoire de Castellane. The translucent jadeite pieces were carved into ivy leaf shapes.

"When you meet an expert like Chin Yeow, you have to take advantage of the chance and ask him everything. Everything!" said Peter Cheung, Sotheby's deputy director for public relations. So does that mean I can bring my grandmother's jade and my engagement ring for appraisal? Upon meeting Chin Yeow, you really would not be ashamed to ask him anything. If there is anyone who can single-handedly erase the stigma of auction houses as stuffy institutions, it is Quek Chin Yeow.

VICTOIRE DE CASTELLANE: The creative force behind Christian Dior Haute Joaillerie and former muse to Karl Lagerfeld and niece of Balmain prêt-à-porter designer Gilles du Four designed the "Promesse" suit for Sotheby's

Chin Yeow may have spent many years in Britain, finishing his undergraduate studies at the London School of Economics and his MBA at City University, but he doesn't have a phony British accent nor mannerisms usually picked up by people who live there for a month. Nor is he the stiff, conservative Singaporean or the curt and abrupt Hong Kong Chinese. Fact is, Quek Chin Yeow is so Hollywood it hurts! And like those who make it in Hollywood, Chin Yeow has the personality and the knowledge that catapulted him to where he is now.

From his well-fitted gray suit on his lean physique to his warm, flamboyant manner, Chin Yeow is a pleasant surprise at least in the conservative auction business. "I was 27 when I ran Sotheby's in Singapore," he said, "My clients were the parents of my former classmates. Of course, everyone thought I was so young.. But that reflected the changing face of the industry."

Chin Yeow has always been interested in art. So much so that his thesis was about applying general marketing techniques to a then-budding 1980s London art world. As he says, "Like a good Singaporean boy, I had to take business. I couldn't even imagine working in the art business so I worked at Diner's Club, in their marketing department, after I graduated." However, at Diner's Club, he started a purchasing program which involved selling high-end art like Hockneys and Miros by mail order. (Funny enough, at that time, this program was sponsored by Christie's, Sotheby's arch rival.) He also organized a music contest where the winner got to play with the Singapore Symphony Orchestra. Chin Yeow's career can be summarized by the saying, "If you keep your eyes on the ball, you'll hit it." Because after Diner's came Sotheby's and he's never looked back since.

A man who knows his jewelry

At Sotheby's, Chin Yeow has helped set up their regional offices and develop the jewelry market for South East Asia. "I've been bringing jade for sale in Singapore for 13 years," he says with a twinkle in his eye. Aside from the jewelry and business development, Chin Yeow started the sale of South East Asian paintings in Singapore in 1996 and is currently Head of South East Asian Paintings. "Oh! I know Amorsolo's work very well because I've been looking at them for years!" he exclaims while leafing through the latest sale catalogue which features five rare and exceptional Amorsolos, "... and Anita Magsaysay-Ho and Ang Kiukok..."

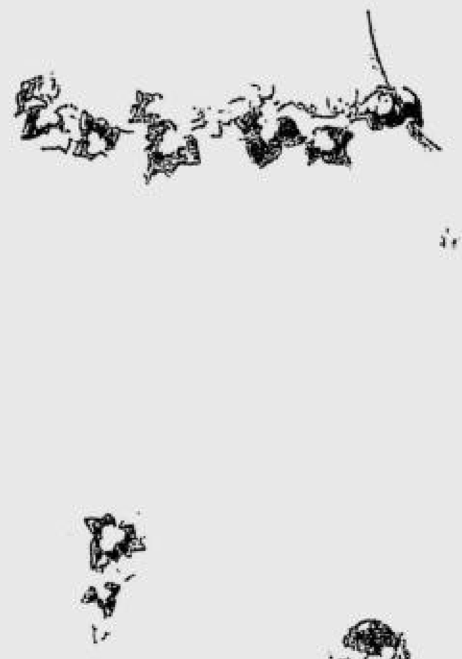
Hong Kong now ranks No. 3 in overall jewelry sales at auction, beating London in certain categories. London sells more antique jewelry and pieces that involve craftsmanship and provenance. "The lifestyle, tax structure are some of the factors that affect sales. The market here is very strong. We had a great spring sale... HK$13 million for a jadeite necklace!" Chin Yeow says with pride.

Hands down, when it comes to jadeite, Hong Kong is the biggest market with 7 percent of the business. And Chin Yeow is the expert. Unlike gemology, expertise in jade is neither graded nor formally studied. Chin Yeow's experience comes from hands-on selling and handling of jadeite. The only way to learn, he says, "[is] you must love it and have experience in looking at it. You also must have a good memory. You have to remember where you've seen a piece and what shade of green it was. You have to have a photographic memory."

Chin Yeow is so passionate about jade, his favorite stone, that when he met Victoire de Castellane of Christian Dior Haute Joaillerie, he proposed a joint project between Dior and Sotheby's using jade. Dior came up with the designs while Sotheby's looked for the stones and carved them to the required ivy leaf design. After a year in the making, the necklace, detachable brooch, earrings and ring came in the market in the Magnificent Jewels and Jadeite Sale in Hong Kong last October. The necklace, estimated at HK$3.2 to 3.5 million, took centerstage as the cover lot of the catalogue. It sold for HK$4 million.

That said, Chin Yeow looks out his window that overlooks the harbor and says, "One time we had five to six pieces at about HK$5 million each. Another time, I thought a sale had too many necklaces. But everything sold." Then he bolts from his seat and exclaims, "Oh! I want to show you this beautiful cabochon ring for HK$6 million! It's so green!" When he takes the ring out and slips it on his finger, he says, "I should have worn a purple suit. Jade looks great with purple." Don't you love a man who knows his jewelry?

Do you love jewelry? Or you'd rather have love? Did you learn anything from this story or do you wish you never read it? Rant or rave the author at styledowager@hotmail.com


THE "PROMESSE" necklace in its design stage. The translucence and purity of the jade is brought out by the intertwined diamonds acting as branches, and scatterred diamonds as dew.

QUEK Chin Yeow is not only the senior director of Sotheby's Southeast Asia and China, but also one of only two Asian auctioneers in the auction business.

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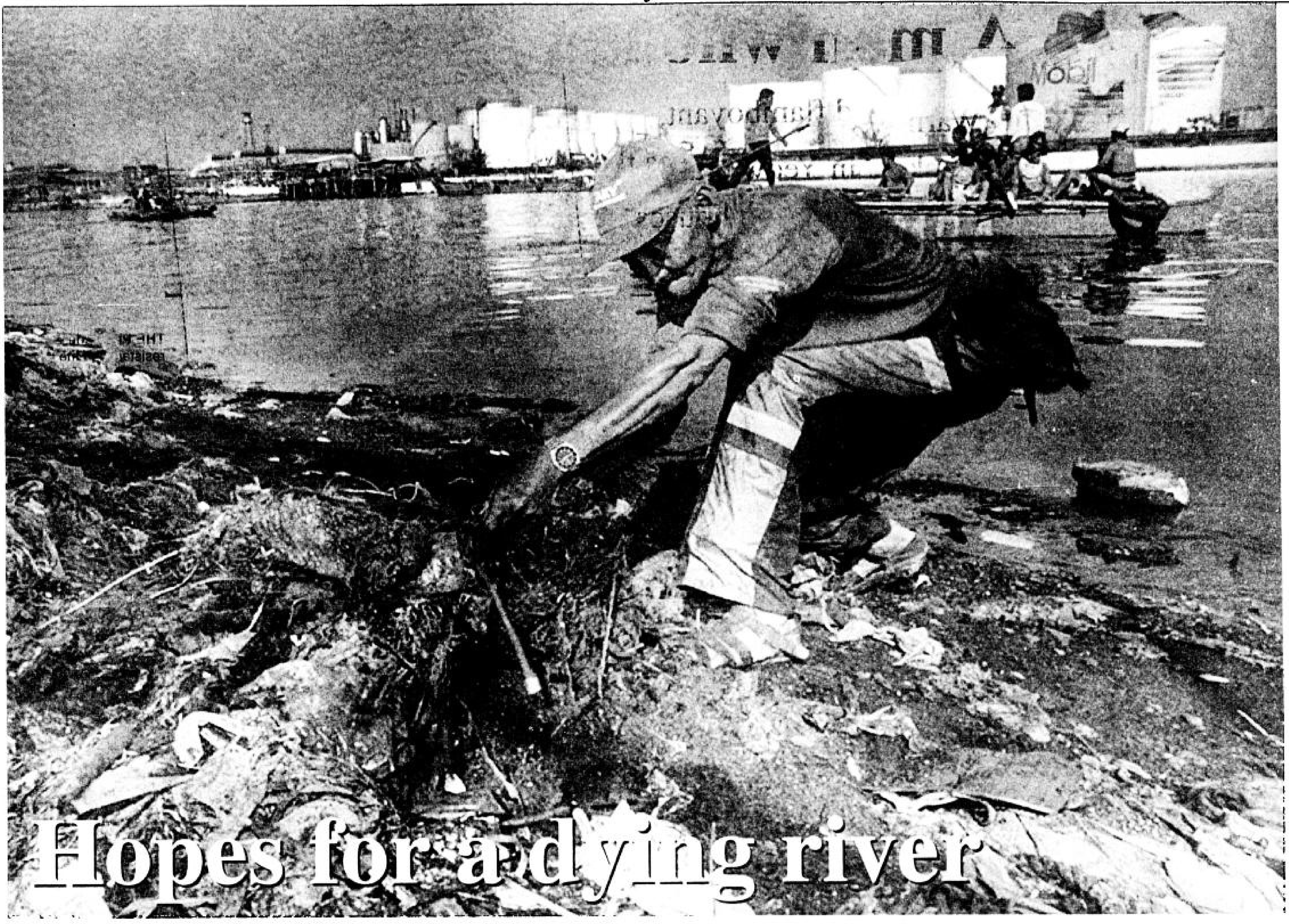


How's the rehabilitation of the Pasig River? As tricky as ever, but with the consolation that sectors are grudgingly coming together to make a dent on the problem

Hopes for a dying river

FACTORIES, industrial plants, oil depots render futile the efforts of volunteers cleaning up the Pasig River.

By Constantino C. Tejero

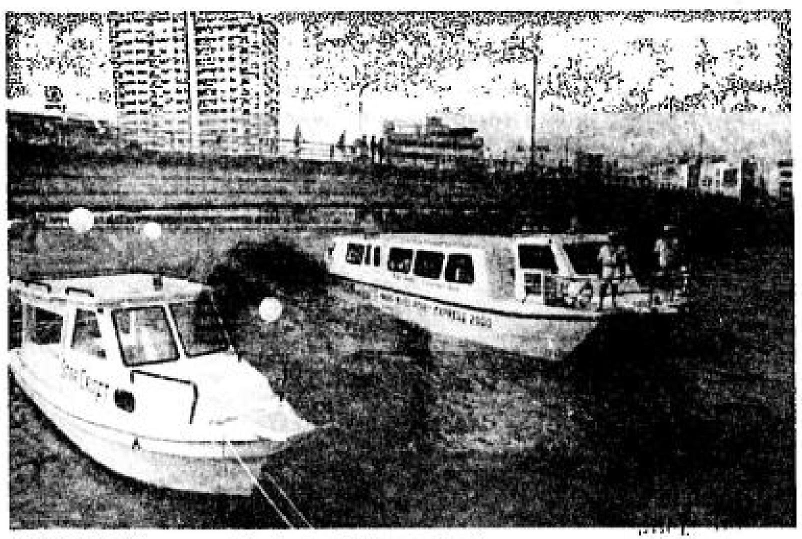
WHEN the symposium "Kumusta Ka Na, Ilog Pasig?" was held recently at the Carlos P. Romulo Theater of the RCBC Plaza, it raised as many questions as it offered solutions.

Presented by the Clean & Green Foundation Inc.-Piso Para sa Pasig and the Archdiocese of Manila through Caritas-Manila, in support of the Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC), this was the second such symposium on the state of the Pasig River.

After the master plan had been laid out, the technical working committees gave their status reports on the following: flood control; environment management; housing and resettlement; livelihood; riverbanks, transportation and tourism development; information and advocacy.

After each committee report, video clippings were screened, showing interviews of the people directly affected by this government plan. Each screening was followed by an open forum. When the human factor is considered, things get more and more complicated.

The speakers from the committees sounded quite hopeful, but the reality seemed bitter and unresolved, particularly when it came to the issue of the resettlement of the riverbanks' informal settlers (new euphemism for *squatters*) to formal housing (new euphemism for *tenements*).



A MODE of transport that should be revived

Some 10,000 families (by 1997 census) have to be relocated. But these are not robots you can just put in a corner and have them stay there until such a time that you push a button to make them move around.

Housing units have been constructed for them, known as Kasiglahan Villages, in Taguig and Rodriguez, Rizal; and in Gen. Trias and Trece Martires, Cavite.

One man asked why it was so named when, by the looks of it, the settlers were *"hindi naman masigla."* A committee chair countered that they, at least, looked hopeful.

Interviewed in the video clips, the newly relocated settlers were fairly mutinous. They complained their housing was too far from the schools or the job sites, that one-way tricycle fare cost P20, and garbage was mounting in their neighborhood as there had been no planning for a dumpsite.

Livelihoods are being planned for them, such as food preparation and processing, sewing, candle and soap making, doormat making, slippers making, small businesses.

A common complaint was that daily income had been largely diminished in the new settlement. As humorously put across by one man, who used to work as a messenger in Makati: "*Dati kumakain pa kami ng pata; ngayon patalbos-talbos na lang.*"

New problems

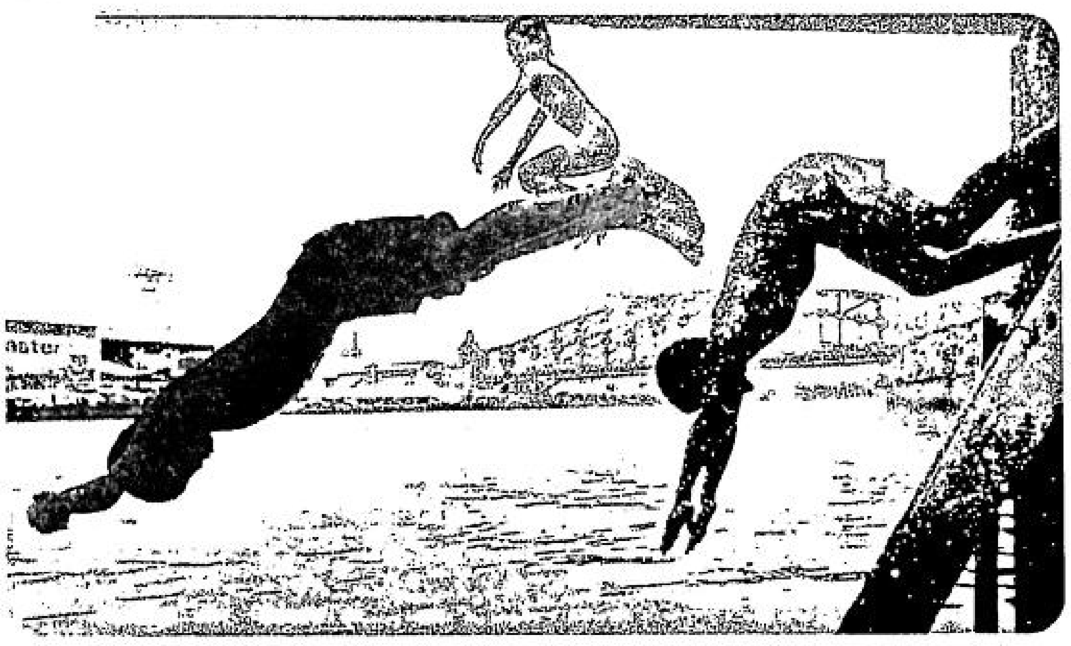
A committee chair blamed the urban rich with big houses and lawns as they ate up precious space in the city, thus preventing laborers easy access to their workplaces. That encourages urban sprawl, since the people have nowhere else to go but to encroach on the surrounding forests and farms.

In a video clip, a would-be relocatee pointed out a funeral parlor and a piggery on the riverbank, and suggested their wastes were ending up in the river.

"*Bakit kami lang?*" said the man. He meant, why shouldn't these establishments, which are bigger polluters of the Pasig, be relocated also? (Not to mention the numerous factories, industrial plants, oil depots along the river that send toxic chemicals to the water.)

Then there's the 10-m easement of the banks of major riverways, and the 3-m easement for the *esteros*, which will directly affect some 300,000 people,

Immediately after news about the easement came out, prices of lots started rising and high-rises are now being constructed. As a result, communities are suffering from lack of water as it is being pumped up to those high-rises. "*At lahat ng dumi roon bumababa sa amin,*" one man in the audience said.



A FEW summers ago, the water of the Pasig used to be good enough for these kids to swin in.

A parish priest complained the government was focusing on building structures instead of rebuilding lives. A committee chair countered the construction of the easement was not meant only for the waterways but also for public safety, so that fire trucks would have passageways during fire.

Still, this is a case of solving one problem and creating another. Such will be the case when everything will have been put in place.

With parks and promenades built along the river, there will, of course, be a tourism boom and, expectedly, along will come the beggars, the pickpockets, the prostitutes, the hawkers, the dregs of society. Necessarily, new problems will crop up in the wake of this project.

The doables

At the end of the symposium, Benjamin Abalos, chair of the Metro Manila Development Authority and cochair of the PRRC, cited the doables: discontinue the pollution of the river and clean up the trash, derelicts, water hyacinths; revive the ferry transportation; continue the beautification and the construction of parks and promenades; relocation of informal settlers and hazardous industries like oil depots. These, Abalos said, could be done within the next three years.

Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin, who's also PRRC chair, promised the committees that the government would allot a budget for their projects.

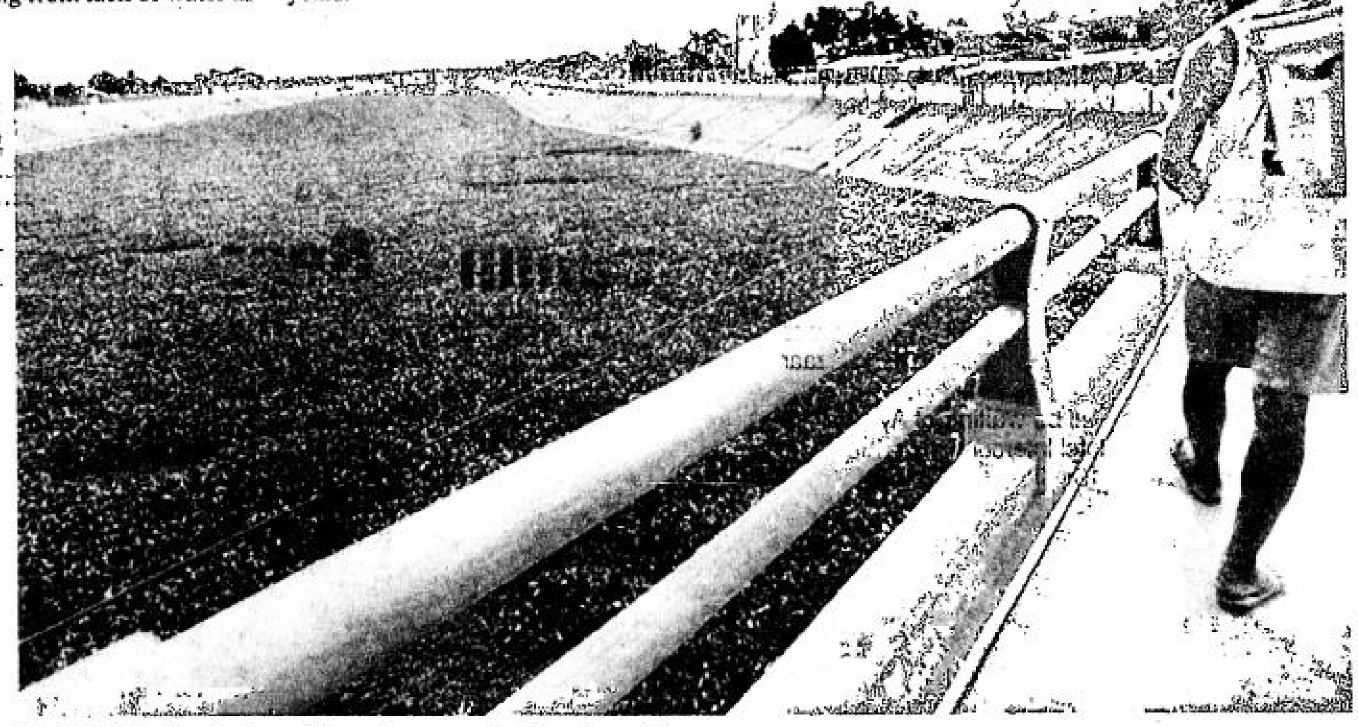
Piso Para sa Pasig, a project initiated by Clean & Green Foundation chair Amelita Ramos, has already raised P50 million, which will primarily go to the information campaign and advocacy of the rehabilitation of the Pasig.

In a high note, Tony Mann, team leader and urban planner for the Asian Development Bank-funded Pasig River Environmental Management and Rehabilitation Building Support Project, promised full cooperation.

A dampener was the fiery Leonarda Camacho, one of the country's most-awarded environmentalists. Her full stentorian voice still rang in the audience's ears three hours after she delivered her speech: "It will take you seven lifetimes to accomplish your development plans unless you segregate your household wastes... So, please, separate your garbage tomorrow!"

Amid these hopeful speeches and fiery rhetoric arose the small, still voice of the people. In one video clip, a woman, apparently the wife of a Pasig River fisherman, was asked what were her hopes for the dying river. She said: "*Magkaroon lang ng* space *para daanan ng bangka...*"

WILL one lifetime not be enough to clean this up?



IN A RIVER of water hyacinths, where can the *bangka* go?

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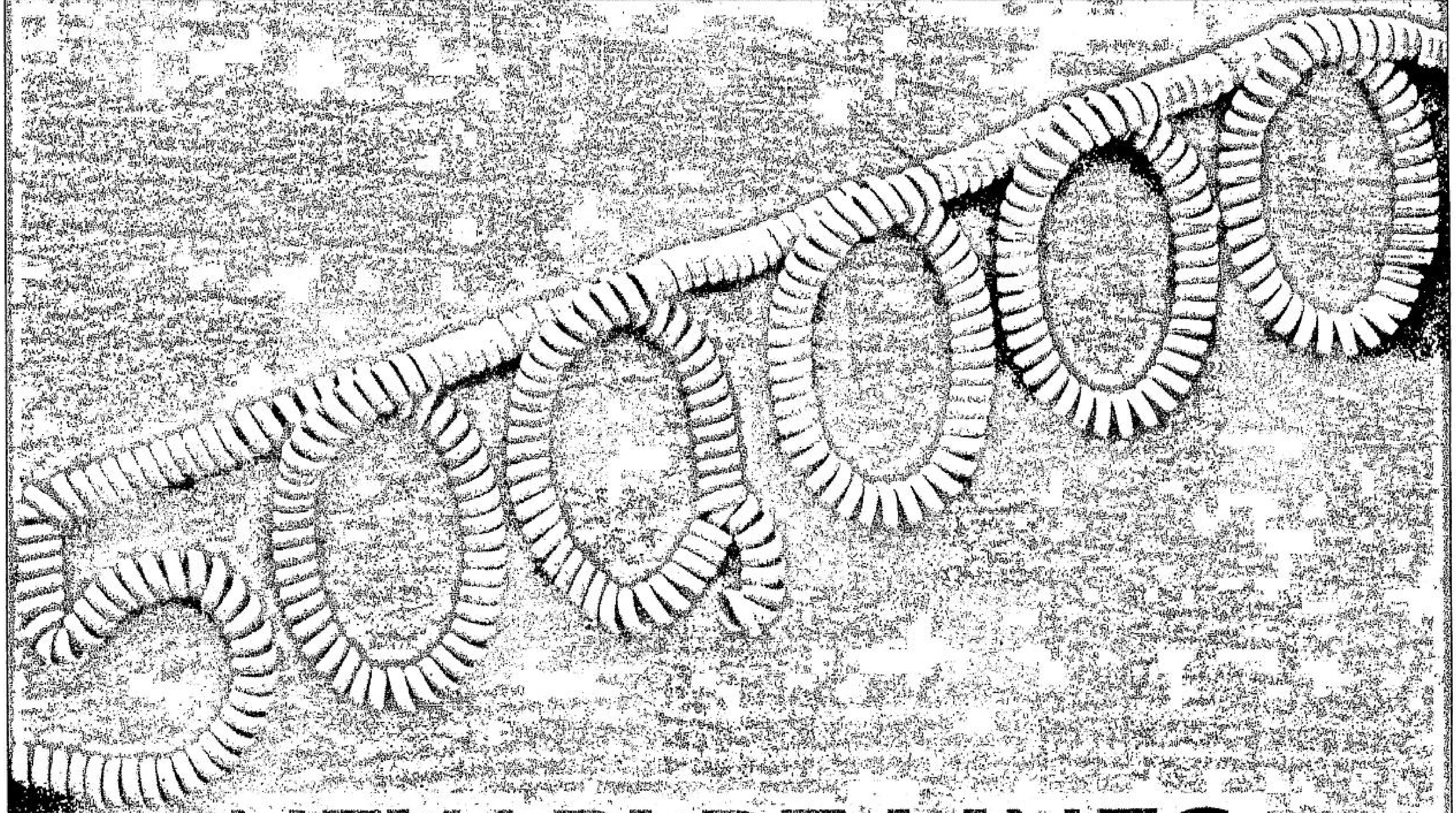

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	Caloocan	7,476
	Las Piñas	32,115
	Malabon	13,590
	Muntinlupa	8,182
	North Parañaque	19,567
	Paco	14,556
	Pamplona	27,816
	Pasay	40,008
	Quiapo	21,215
	San Pedro	18,119
	South Parañaque	13,231
	South Taguig	7,057
	South Triangle	19,174
	Tambo	34,797
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LUZON	LOCATION	AVAILABLE LINES
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	Orion	1,701

VISAYAS	LOCATION	AVAILABLE LINES
Bacolod	Bacolod	7,772
	Bata	163
	La Castellana	45
	Mansilingan	291
	Tangub	57
Iloilo	Banate	314
	Dingle	257
	La Paz	12,517
	Manduriao	1,756
Cebu/ Jones	South Cebu	17,042

MINDANAO	LOCATION	AVAILABLE LINES
Davao Metro	Calinan	293
	Cotabato	8,502
	Dinaig	579
	Isulan	592
	Mintal	1,065
	Matina	10,556
	Panabo	3,799
	Panakan	230
	Parang	327
	Sasa	8,514
	Sultan Kudarat	413
	Tacurong	960
	Toril	3,240
Davao Central	Buhangin	3,768
	Davao Central	19,218
	Maa	189
Zamboanga	Oroqueta	1,077
	Ozamis	2,741
	Tagoloan	1,305
	Zamboanga	7,172
	Available Regional Lines	**121,637**

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Sunday LIFESTYLE

Weddings Engagements

ROCO-AVANCEÑA

Some funny things happened on the way to the altar and back

Story on page F6

"I CAN'T live without you," says Ricky Quezon Avanceña to Pia Malasarte Roco.

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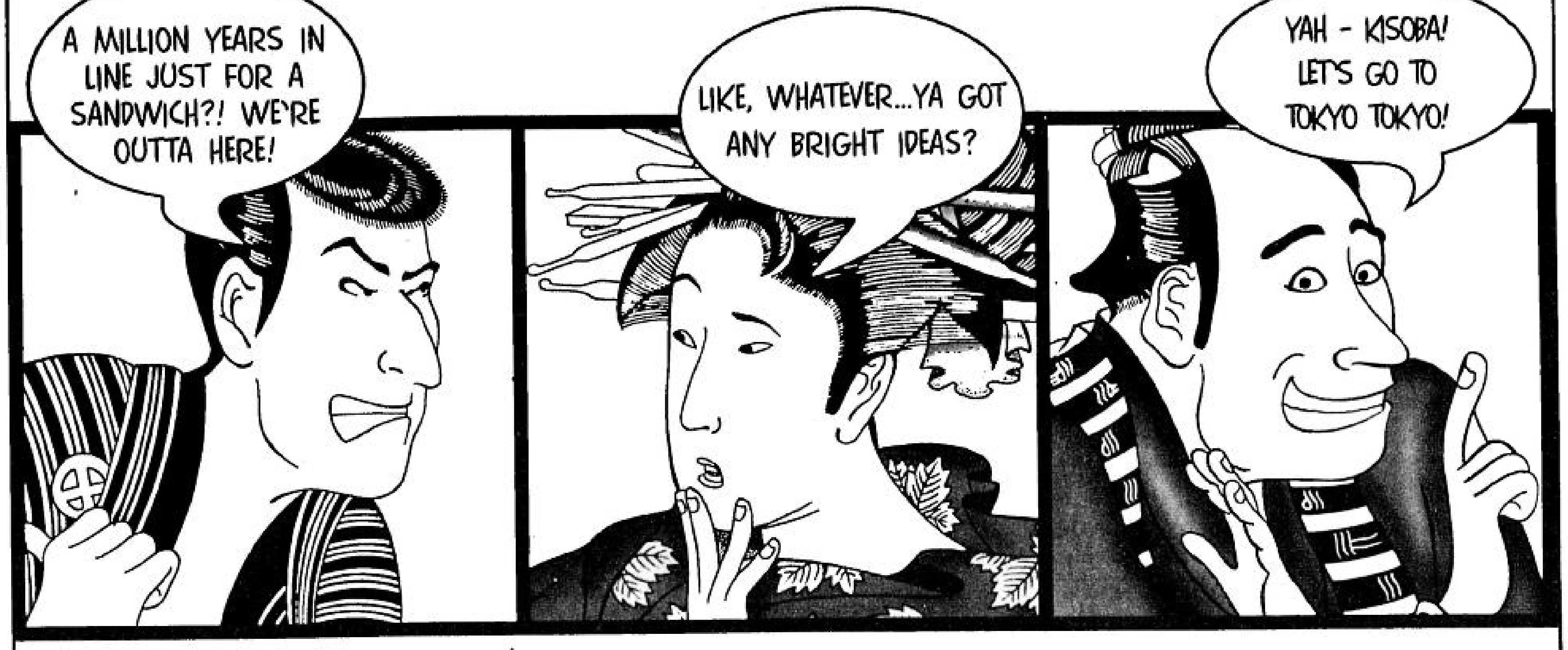
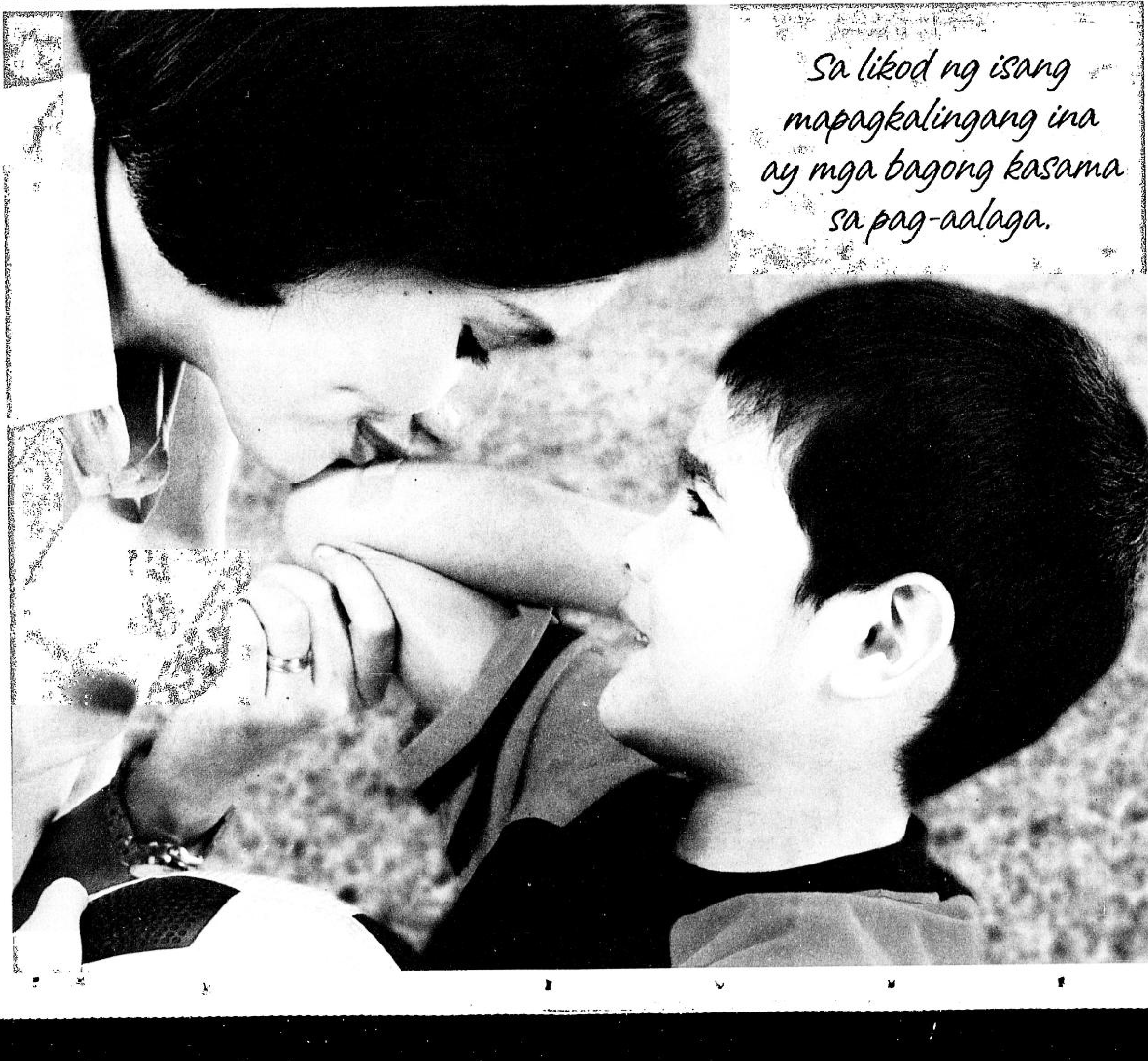

A MILLION YEARS IN LINE JUST FOR A SANDWICH?! WE'RE OUTTA HERE!
LIKE, WHATEVER...YA GOT ANY BRIGHT IDEAS?
YAH - KISOBA! LET'S GO TO TOKYO TOKYO!

Eastwood Citywalk • Glorietta 2 • Greenhills Shopping Center • Harrison Plaza • Robinsons Ermita Expansion • Rockwell Powerplant • SM Centerpoint • SM Fairview • SM Manila • SM Megamall • SM North Edsa Carpark • SM Pampanga • SM Southmall • Tutuban Centermall | Coming Soon: Greenbelt • Shangrila-La Plaza • SM Sucat • Sta Lucia East

TOKYO TOKYO

GREAT GREAT JAPANESE


Sa likod ng isang mapagkalingang ina ay mga bagong kasama sa pag-aalaga.

EASTER SAIL MEET

JS1
1503
2001

A gathering of top one-design sailboats in the Philippines.

Westin Easter Sail Meet 2001

The Easter Sail Meet is a special water sports event that will launch the sail training facility of Westin Philippine Plaza, The Park Water Sailing Center by Liquid Xperience.
The Easter Sail Meet is a gathering of one-design sailboats, class associations, fans and friends to demonstrate the sport of sailing in an atmosphere of fun, camaraderie and sportsmanship.

Venue

Offshore

Westin Philippine Plaza's breathtaking waterfront vista and spectacular sunset view will serve as the backdrop of the regatta. It is a unique opportunity for both the sport and the media... never before has a sailing event come so close to the shore for everyone to see.

Westin's famed waterfront location will soon be regarded as the newest sailing venue in the Philippines!

Inshore

With a world-class resort and recreational facility in place, Westin is the ideal host of the regatta.

*The raised grass area by the garden will be open to the families and friends of sailors during competition. A sailing booth with the Streaker, the newest one design sailboat in the country will be displayed.

This booth will enable the Race Management Staff to provide participating sailors, spectators and the media with information regarding the race.

*Sails Paradiso Sports Bar will host the entertainment at the awarding ceremonies on Easter night. Open bar on draft and soda between 5pm and 7pm only.

Admission to the regatta and awards night will be free to people with advanced reservations only. Food will be sold. In order to promote the sport of sailing, the general public is encouraged to participate in this event. This shall ensure that the Easter Sail Meet will be one festive and memorable sailing event.

Prizes

- Trophies will be given to three top winners for each class.
- All participants will receive gift packages from the sponsors.

One-Design Classes

The regatta will feature several one-design classes (types of boats) racing on a trapezoid course. These events will be designated as:

Event	Class
Single-Handed	Streaker
	Optimist
Double-Handed	420

Merchandise

- *Uniforms - The organizers will be in event uniforms adorning the event and sponsors and supporters logo.
- Regatta flags and other decorations will also adorn the event venue.

Participants and Spectators

It is expected that about 70 sailors and organizers will be in the Meet. The event shall also attract some 100 spectators and fans.

Attractions

Park Water Dinghy Center will be launched as the best facility for dinghy sailing in Manila. It will showcase sail training, giving lessons on basic sailing, racing and marlinspike seamanship.

Park Water will also serve as the home of the newest one-design sailboat fleet in the Philippines, The Streaker.

The latest and most affordable sailing dinghy in the market, the Streaker will attract the interest of the old salts and create a new breed of racers and cruisers. It will be Philippine sailing history revisited and revived!

She rejects his love but regrets losing his friendship

LOVE NOTES

Joe D' Mango

DEAR Joe,

I am Darling, a fresh graduate of one of the prestigious universities in Metro Manila. I never thought that I would meet a person who'd see the other side of me that other people nor even I knew existed. It was a terrible thing to realize that you've fallen in love with a certain person who'd suddenly leave you. Letting go is the hardest part and accepting the consequence of your mistakes is a painful torture.

Ted and I had been the best of friends for almost a year. We had been through thick and thin. It was like we were the only persons who could better understand each other. But after our first date, we were not comfortable with each other anymore and it became more complicated when we kissed and hugged every time we went out. It came to a point that we were already arguing about almost anything. That's when we started talking about what was bothering us. We were blinded by the fact that we were already falling for each other. He told me he'd always wanted to reveal his feelings but three things kept him from doing so: He doesn't want to hurt Joseph, the father of my 2-year-old daughter, since he knows that Joseph loves me more than his life; Dennis, a suitor, would surely hate him; and that I'd be going back to the United States anyway after my graduation.

I was surprised to hear all these from Ted. There was a part of me that was unsure so I told him to just go with the flow because many people would get hurt if we'd push things right away. But he was so eager to prove his intentions that I just couldn't afford to break his heart. Whenever I was having problems, he was always there for me.

After a few months, Ted decided to move on with his life because, according to him, it seemed that whatever he did, he just could not make me happy. I let him go. I can afford to lose him as a lover but never as a best friend. I cannot do anything to change his mind. I just hope that someday our paths will cross again. I will always remember what he told me once, "If we're still single at 45, we will marry each other."

I'll be going back to the US and my wish is for Ted to always keep me in his heart until we meet again.

God bless! Thanks and more power.

DARLING

I don't think that waiting until both you and Ted are 45 and still single is such a practical idea. Yes, love can wait but at 45, you would have missed out so much in life already. Darling, sometimes opportunity knocks only once in our lives. Once we let it pass, it may never cross our paths again. Finding someone who will love us for what we have been and what we are isn't easy. More often than not, people put a price tag to the things they do for us. Seldom do we find someone who can accept the good and the bad in us.

I think Ted has shown and proven beyond any doubt and in many concrete ways that he loves you. You were afraid to accept that love because there were still so many things in your life that you have left unfinished.

If there is nothing more than friendship that you can offer him, then I believe it is just fair to keep some distance from him because forgetting someone we love will be doubly hard if that person keeps us hanging by making his presence felt in his own ways. In this case, you just can't bargain friendship for love, for Ted cannot be a friend without falling in love with you. You would just either have to accept that love or give him space to recover from his fall.

We all wish that love will knock at our doors and come to live, even for a moment, in our hearts. But, not everyone would be as lucky. There are those who would find it and keep it but there will also be those who would find it yet lose it for a hundred reasons. There are those who would still be waiting, hoping that maybe they would be in luck next time it comes around.

Darling , I hope Ted is listening now so he can hear what your heart has to say. Love could just be waiting for the right reason, the right place and the right moment. I hope you would stay in his heart so when loves comes knocking again you'd be there to open it for him. Hopefully, when that time comes, if ever it comes again, you would have settled all the accounts of the past and ready to start a new life with him—the man you are truly destined to be with forever.

E-mail the author at joe@ailink.net

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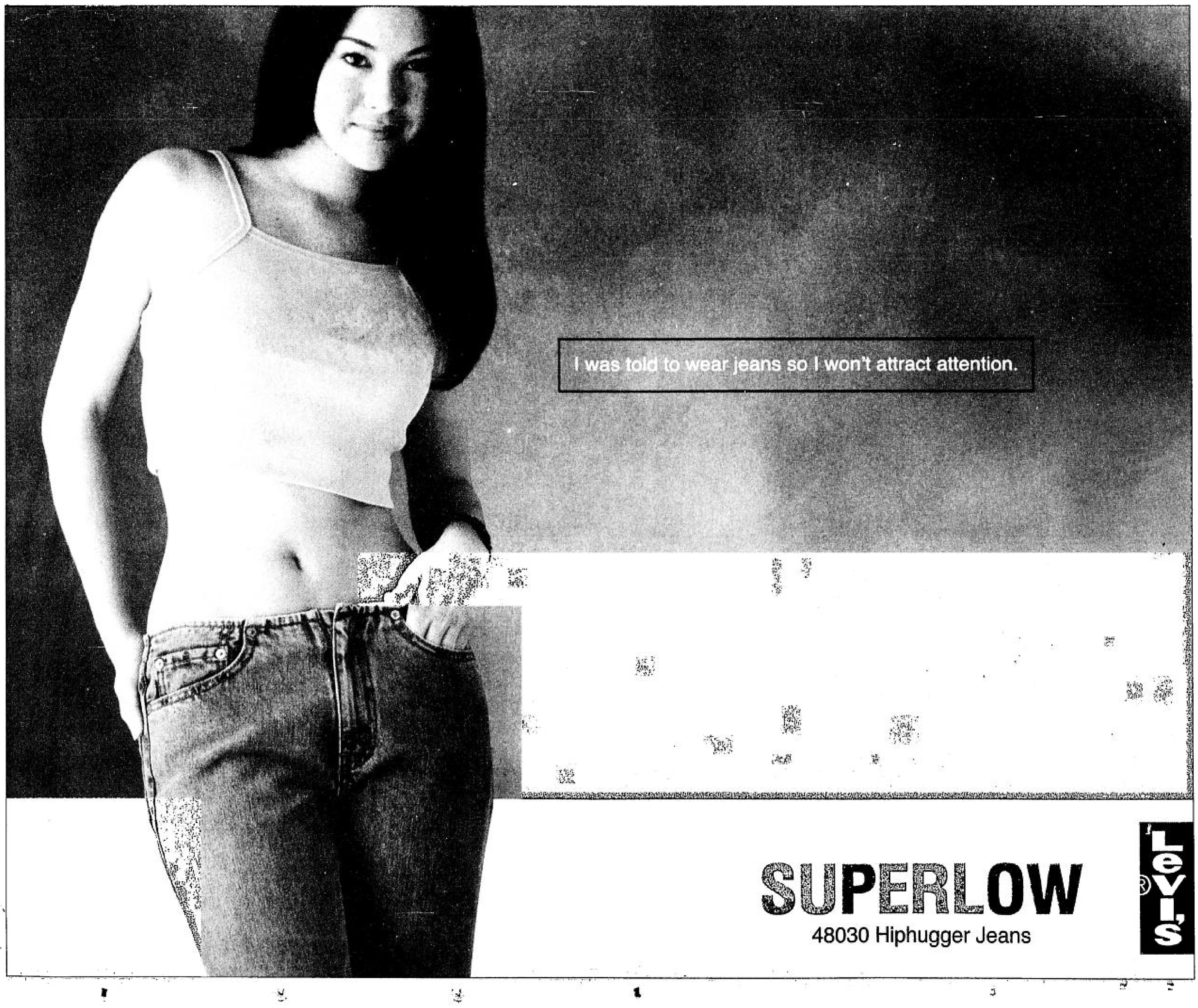
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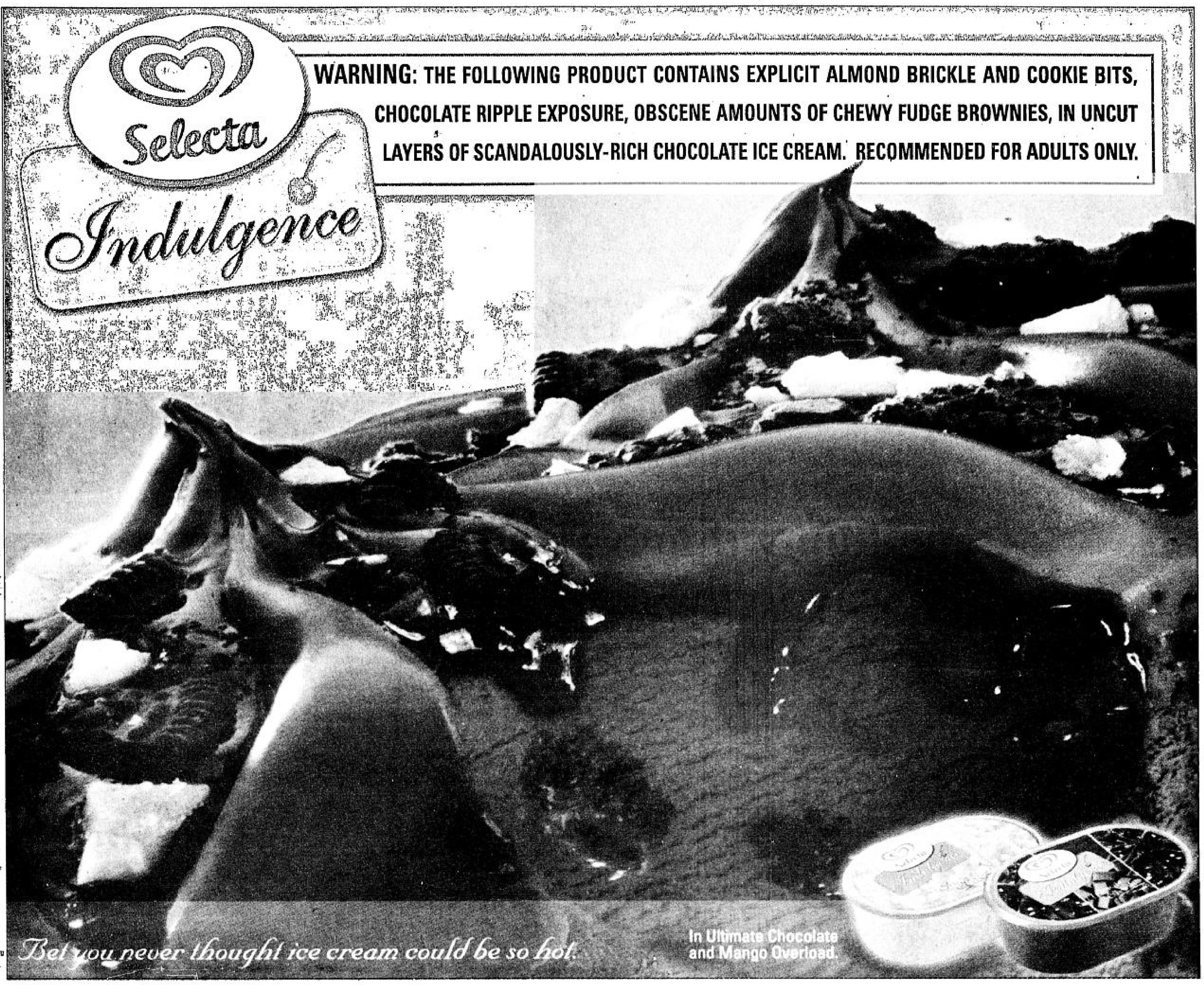
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Kaya mo bang mailigtas agad ang iyong anak sa infection ng sugat?
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BAND-AID CREAM
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For external use only

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Mabisang pinapatay ng New Band-Aid® Brand Antiseptic Cream ang germs na maaaring maka-infect sa sugat. Dahil dito, walang magiging hadlang sa sugat para ito'y mabilis na gumaling. Effective din sa sunburn, diaper rash, insect bites, burns at iba pa.

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COURT OF HONOR. The newlyweds with principal sponsors Leonor Abanilla, Luth Camina, Vilma Valera, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, Tony Amador, Mayor Mel Mathay, Sonny Belmonte and Ernani Castelo

SECRETARY Raul Roco greets his *kumare*, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Some funny things happened on the way to the altar and back

A church wedding one year after a civil wedding should bring blessings, but it also brought Pia and Ricky remembrances of things laughable

BY TIM YAP
PHOTOS BY BETOY JOHNSON

"I'LL be loving you always . . ."

No, this was not the bride and groom's theme song. Nor was it the lullaby that the bride marched to on her wedding day.

This song, in its entirety, was what Archbishop Diosdado Talamayan sang to Pia Malasarte Roco and Ricky Quezon Avanceña during the matrimonial Mass held at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Shrine in Quezon City on April 6.

Pia and Ricky met in 1995 when they were set up by Pia's brother and his girlfriend. Two years later, Ricky invited Pia to his brother's wedding and a special friendship developed.

Several projects, a foundation and a civil wedding (held last year) later, they are still together, their union strong as ever.

Hot

"It was very hot," was how the groom's cousin Manolo Quezon described the rites, a gathering of family and friends from the business and political fields, with no less than President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo leading the principal sponsors.

But if you think this was one of those huge-production type of weddings, well, guess again.

Pia had her gown made just a month before the ceremony. A day before the actual rites, the couple rushed to SM Megamall to buy the rings, shoes, belt and undergarments for the groom.

Not that they didn't want to get married, which is farthest from the truth. They have been engrossed in their foundation, which teaches computer literacy to kids in depressed areas. Both are also busy campaigning for Ricky in the council race in QC's fourth district.

After the bride and groom solemnly marched to the altar, instead of teary-eyed congratulations, the lector (Nene, the groom's sister) hurriedly asked the couple, "Do you have an extra copy of the missalette for Archbishop Talamayan?"

Apparently, no missalettes had been distributed.

Then when the priest said, "Please sit," the groom looked around for seats and couldn't find any, so he took the chairs nearest the altar. A parishioner reminded him he was not supposed to sit—the bride and groom should kneel. Ricky promptly returned the chairs.

During the homily, the priest looked alternately between the couple and the President. "Your love for each other, should be like bridges," he said emphatically to the couple then looked over to GMA and continued, "just like President Macapagal-Arroyo's bridges to the barangay..."

Now how's that for separation of Church and State?

At the reception

Because of the strict security measures, there was heavy traffic going through the gates of the Quezons' Gilmore residence, where the wedding reception was held. Even the newlyweds were stuck outside. Ricky had to roll down his car window and ask, "*Yung bagong kasal puwedeng pumasok*?"

Although they went table-hopping to thank their guests, some of whom came from overseas (Quezon family members also flew in for Nini Quezon-Avanceña's 80th birthday), the newlyweds forgot to bring a guest book.

Despite all these, the wedding was a success—the principal sponsors were all present (Jun Magsaysay made it to the wedding despite having a fund-raising dinner for his candidacy the same night), the guests had so much fun (well, who wouldn't?) and the bride and groom and their parents were happy.

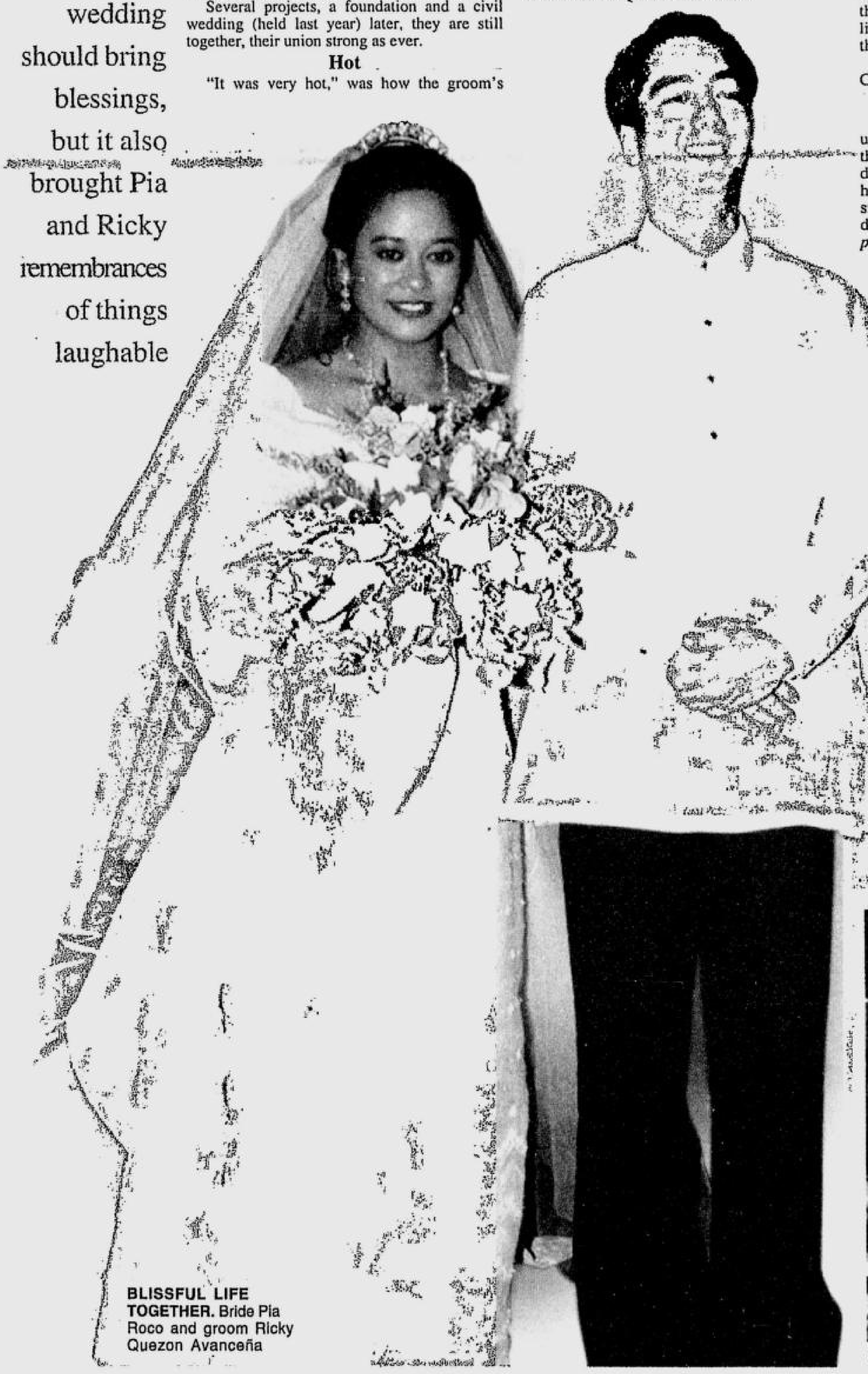
The gifts

To this day, the newlyweds haven't opened their gifts. After the wedding, the bride and groom went home at 3:30 a.m. and guess what happened? The Luzon-wide blackout.

The following day, the groom had to attend a candidates' forum. On the campaign trail, people greeted them with "best wishes," instead of the usual campaign greetings. Other people teased them, "Since you had a wedding last year and this year, when is the next wedding? Will you have one yearly?"

For now, the couple is focused on the campaign, after which they plan to have kids.

After all these, how do they know they are meant for each other? Pia smiled and repeated what Ricky always told her, "I can't live without you." Sigh.



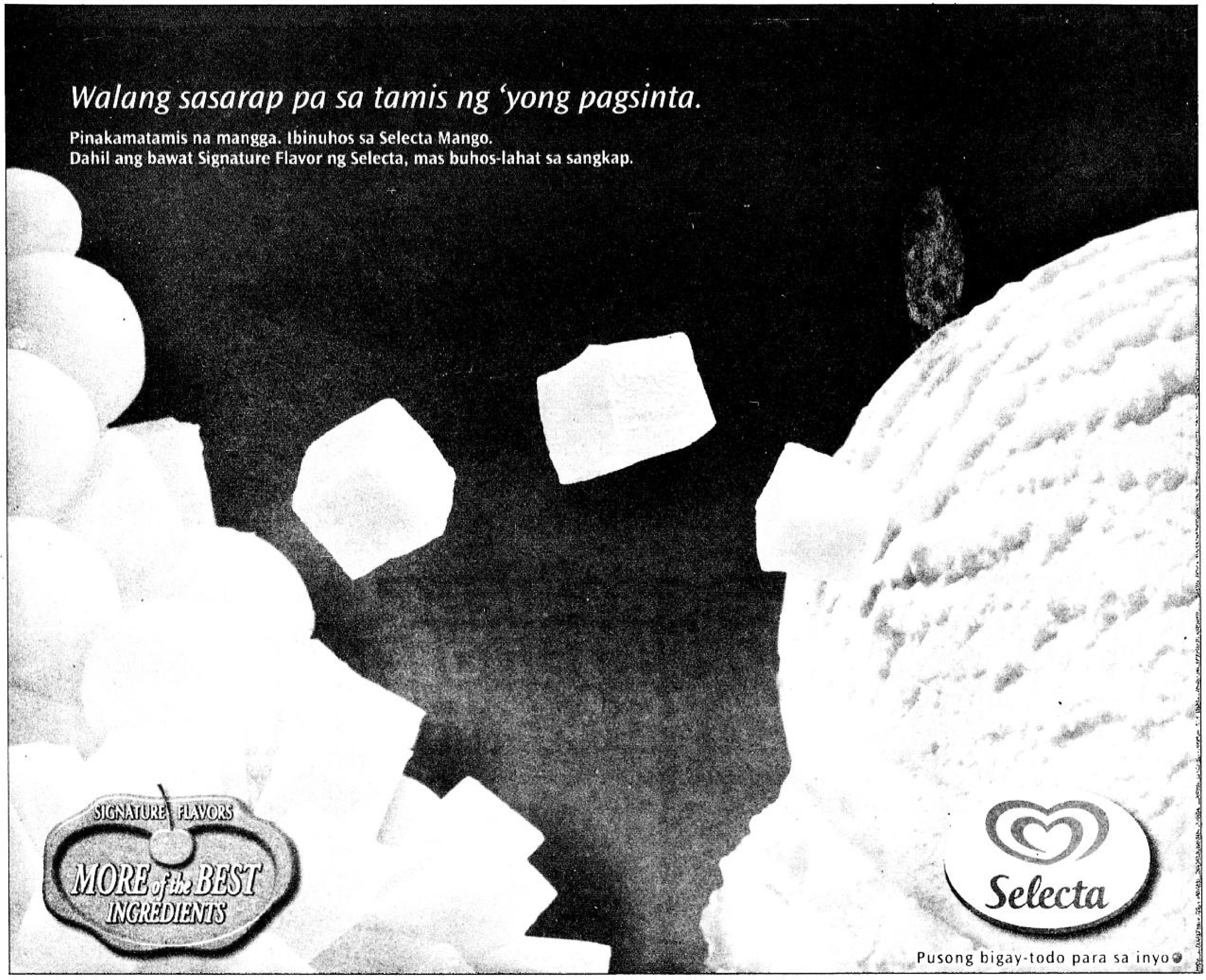
BLISSFUL LIFE TOGETHER. Bride Pia Roco and groom Ricky Quezon Avanceña

"MAGSAYSAY is my guy," says principal sponsor Bibot Amador to Jun Magsaysay.

"IS he the little boy at play?" The groom walks down the aisle with mother Zeneida Quezon Avanceña.

"IS she the little girl I carried?" ... The bride walks down the aisle with father Secretary Raul Roco and mother Sonia Roco.

FAMILY POSE. The newlyweds with the bride's father, Secretary Raul Roco, and family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MORE of the BEST INGREDIENTS
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Walang sasarap pa sa tamis ng 'yong pagsinta.

Pinakamatamis na mangga. Ibinuhos sa Selecta Mango.
Dahil ang bawat Signature Flavor ng Selecta, mas buhos-lahat sa sangkap.

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Panalo rin ba ang iyong anak laban sa germs at infection ng sugat?

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Habang nasusugatan, lalong gumagaling sa laro ang iyong anak. Sa tulong ng New Band-Aid® Brand Clear Plastic Strips na nagbibigay ng **invisible na proteksiyon** sa sugat, magtiwala kang protektado ang iyong anak laban sa germs at infection. Ito ay **see-through** kaya malinis tingnan.

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This summer, SMART Money brings you a series of gimmicks that will cool you down!

Scream your lungs out at the best amusement centers this summer! Use SMART Money to purchase tickets and tokens at **Dream Centers** in Robinsons Malls and **Worlds of Fun** at SM North Edsa. You can even avail of discounts and freebies at these establishments. SMART Money is reloadable, so you don't have to worry about not having enough cash for all the rides and games you want. It's one crazy loop of cashless convenience!

SMART Money is also accepted in over 20,000 MasterCard Electronic and SMART Money merchants nationwide.

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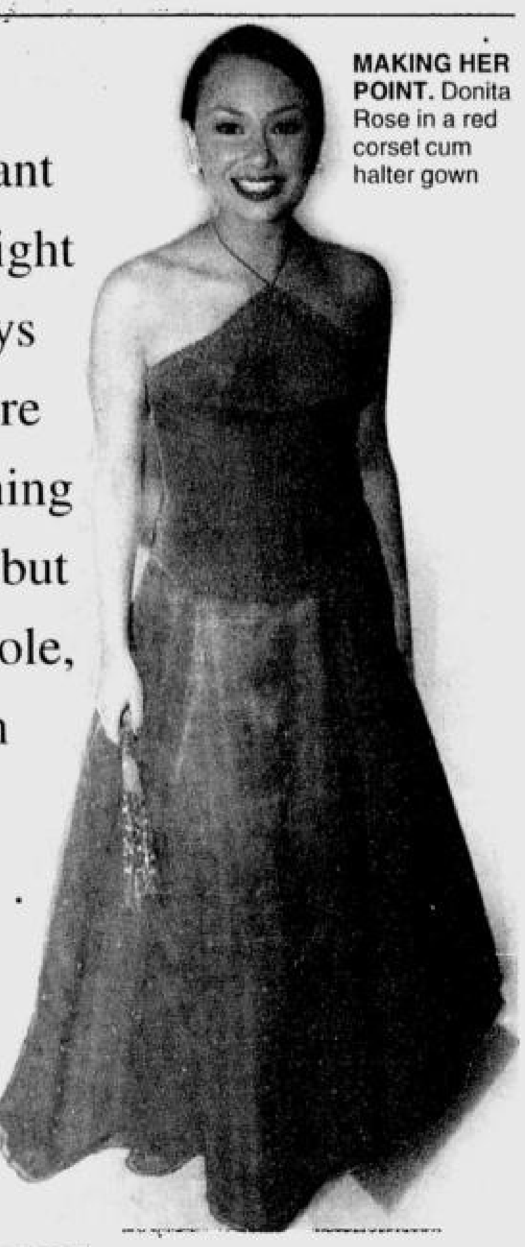
Sunday LIFESTYLE

THE HILLS ARE ALIVE. Cherie Gil in Inno Sotto's form-fitting, bareback black jersey.

Our unrepentant awards' night critic says there were a few shining moments but on the whole, fashion went awry . . .



MAKING HER POINT. Donita Rose in a red corset cum halter gown

At the Famas

BY ALEX Y. VERGARA
PHOTOS BY RANDY HORMILLOSA

SHORT. That's how we sum up this year's recent Famas awards night.

Next to its notoriously lengthy presentations, such screen epics as "The Ten Commandments" and "Titanic" seemed like a pair of long film clips in years past. Well, not this time. Famas 2001 was, thank goodness, short and sweet in more ways than one.

Such brevity also applied to Famas' lackluster guest list and the quality of clothes they wore. Save for a few standouts, the handful of stars who bothered to show up were probably better off had they stayed home and munched on *butong pakwan* while watching the show on TV.

Female Star of the Night Cherie Gil glided effortlessly in a bareback black number by Inno Sotto. Another woman would have turned into a Morticia Addams clone in such an outfit but Cherie carried it with aplomb. She defied show biz convention by eschewing the Santacruzan look in favor of minimalist chic. Look, Ma, no beads, glitters, bangles and chokers. An elegant pair of drop earrings did nicely, thank you.

For somebody who reportedly doesn't give a hoot about exercising, Cherie has amazingly managed to maintain her figure through the years.

The jersey fabric clung nicely to her curves, hiding nothing, including the absence of underwear—yes, down there as well.

Former teen star Ciara Sotto looked surprisingly elegant in a light yellow column accented with a petal-like flap and brooch that were unmistakably Inno. The message? The young actress is ready to tackle more substantial roles.

The same couldn't be said of Angelika dela Cruz, Ciara's co-presenter. It was quite obvious who had the edge in the looks department. But while Ciara chose to keep it simple, Angelika again opted for the complicated. Her dress dripped with a gazillion beads that drew attention away from her pretty face.

Angelika's fear of open spaces extended to the back of her skirt, where dizzying beads of every imaginable shape and make formed a sunburst. Was it our imagination or did we see a couple of golden beetles crawling and whizzing about?

AT THE FAMAS/ p.G3

SERIES 6

M.D., F.P.P.S, P.S.A.A.I.
Allergy Unit
Medical Center Foundation, Philippines

Baby's Eczema Dilemma

Patches of inflammed red scaly skin typically on the face is a good description of eczema among babies. As it worsens, skin becomes itchy, thickened, blistery, weepy, and cracking. A common problem during infancy, eczema or atopic dermatitis, makes babies restless, irritable, unhappy and mothers stressed and helpless.

MORE THAN SKIN DEEP

Eczema is associated with many causes including genetic, environmental, immune and psychological factors. Years of studies have revealed that incidence of eczema in children has increased significantly, persisting in 40 - 70% of cases beyond infancy, and developing into respiratory allergies like asthma, bronchitis, and rhinitis. Moreover, eczema can lead to secondary infections of the skin.

Experts report that the eczematous baby has food allergy until proven otherwise. Food allergy may come from mother's diet if she is breastfeeding or from the milk formula baby is getting . Since food allergens may appear in mother's breast milk and passed into the baby's gastrointestinal tract, she may have to modify her diet to protect her baby. Restrictions may include avoidance of milk products and highly allergenic foods like eggs, peanuts, citrus fruits, chocolate, soy, and nuts . Nonetheless, breast milk remains the best protection against eczema and infections. It has antibodies able to bind allergens and prevent sensitizing the baby.

EXPERTS TO THE RESCUE

The treatment of eczema should be in the hands of well-trained physicians. On the other hand, the ultimate goal of most medical research work is to be closer to disease prevention. Triggering factors can be reduced; diet and environment can be manipulated.

Exclusive breastfeeding for the first 6 months is highly recommended. When breast milk is not possible, a hypoallergenic (H.A.) milk formula is appropriate and good value for money .

Many studies have already shown that the proportion of babies less likely to develop eczema are those fed the H.A. milk. Protection continued long after H.A. feeding has stopped.

Furthermore, the introduction of solid foods is begun slowly and gradually and only at 6 months old. New foods are best given one at a time at 3 to 5 day interval. Finally, measures must be taken to reduce house dust mites and pet allergens in the home. Smoking around the house is best avoided.

Although eczema can be easily managed by medical specialists, there is nothing like prevention. Breastfeed your baby!

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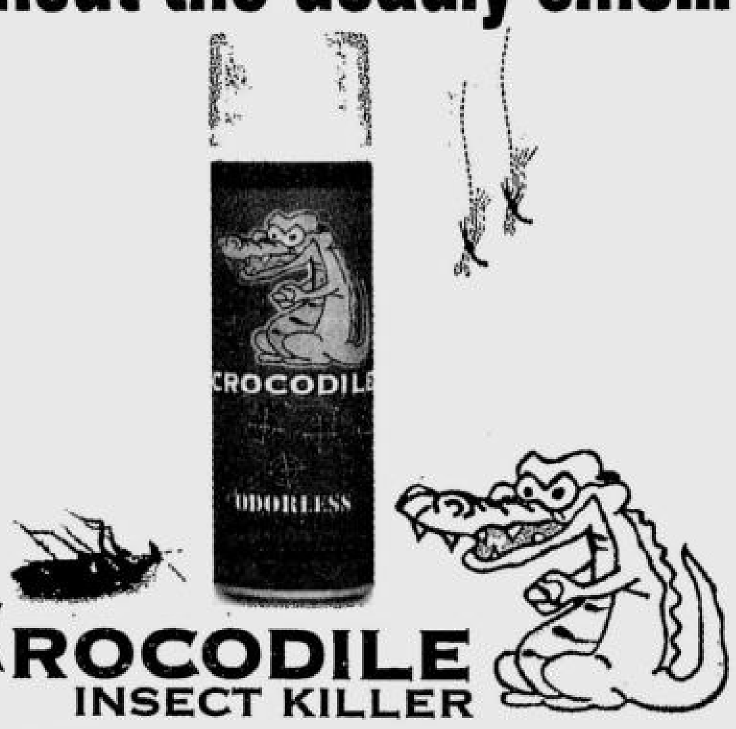

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CONTRAST IN STYLES. Angelika de la Cruz swims in beads, while Ciara Sotto shines in simplicity.

YOUNG AND RESTLESS. The tulle skirt brings out Alessandra da Rossi's youth.

SITTING PRETTY. Kris Aquino opts for an off-shoulder creation with layers of Thai silk for the skirt by Rajo Laurel.

WHERE'S THE BOA? Sunshine Dizon, with Cogie Domingo, in a 1920s-inspired white number

At the Famas

(From page G1)

After the cowgirl catastrophe several awards nights ago (we've lost track, would you believe?), Sunshine Dizon seemed to have learned her lesson. Well, almost.

The former child star looked old beyond her years in a 1920s-inspired white sheath with layers of beaded fringes. What? No hat and boa feathers?

Kris Aquino glided like a princess in a beaded off-shoulder gown with a bouffant skirt in scarlet and orange. The striking mix of colors (expensive Thai silk?) flattered the talk-show host's fair complexion, while the slanting beadwork toned down her full figure.

Kris, however, has worn the same silhouette a thousand times. (Okay, we're exaggerating here.) She should be more adventurous and try another cut next time.

BIG FISH. Halina Perez's net-worthy turn

SWIRLING SLIP. Angel Aquino in a printed halter paired with fringed shawl that's so last year

Ill-fitting

For a change, Alessandra da Rossi looked her age in a two-piece ensemble—a strapless black corset and layers of white tulle with dainty flower appliques. Alas, the top folded every which way underneath the teen talent's frail frame.

We dare not imagine how such an ill-fitting blouse would have looked on a healthier star. No wonder Judy Ann Santos avoids Alessandra's couturier like the plague.

Speaking of ill-fitting creations, Donita Rose was caught in one. The veejay's red corset cum halter turned her breasts into a pair of deadly weapons. Reason? The boning ended abruptly below her chest, leaving a loose halter to cover her bosom.

What's more, the checkered skirt made Donita's hips look fuller. If not for that lovely face, the star would have been swept to the dustbin of dress disasters. Ditto for pretty Angel Aquino, who slipped this time into a halter gown printed with dizzying swirls.

But Halina Perez pulled off the evening's biggest fashion fiasco. She took her Lenten obligations to heart by coming to the show wrapped up like a big fish, from a skirt as shimmery as sharkskin to a fishnet top with seaweed-like appliqués. Marine life does not become her.

Hey, that's what you call dressing in season! Never mind if, in so doing, the unrepentant boldie exposed chunks of meat that made the boys' mouths water.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

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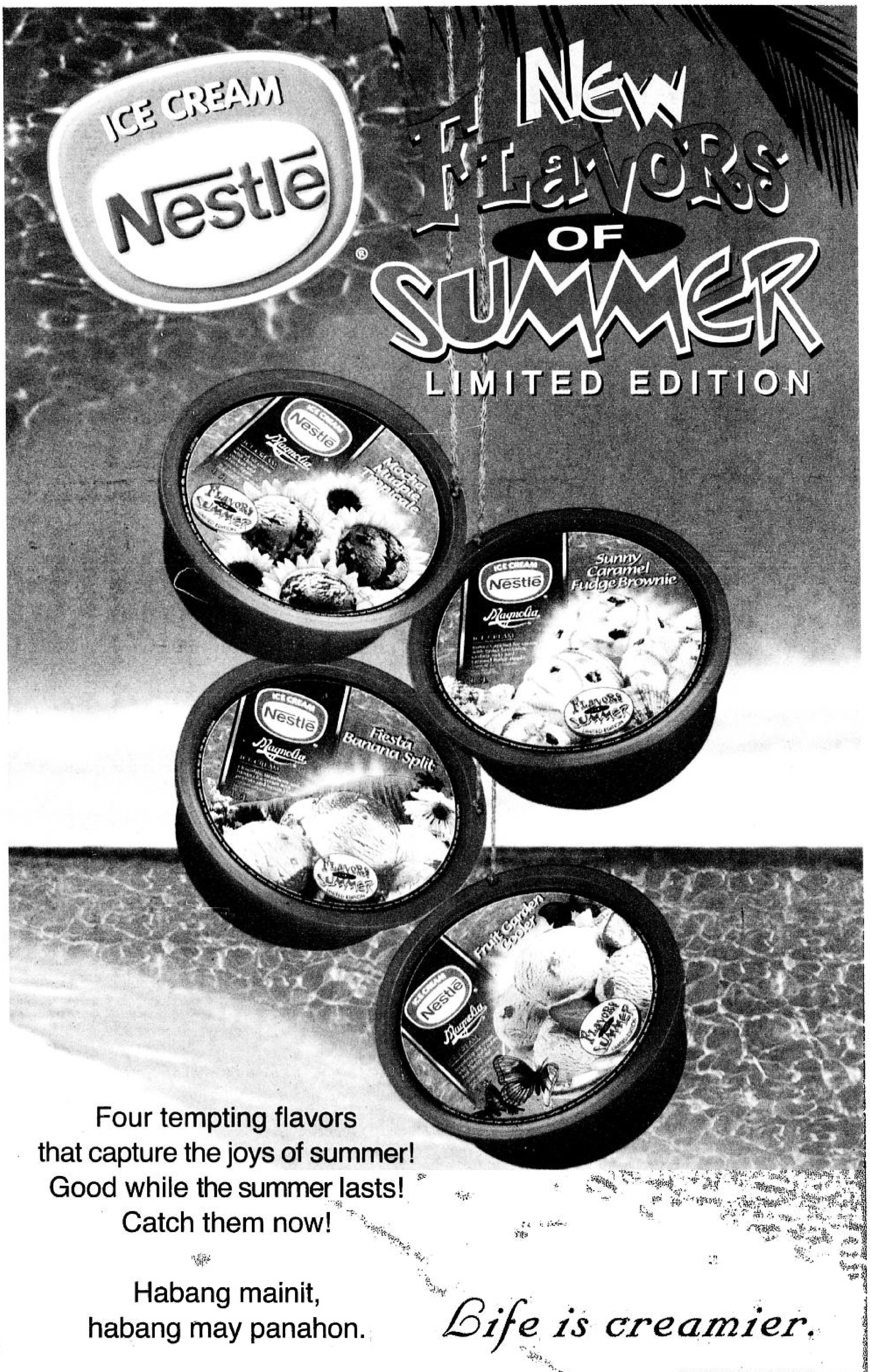

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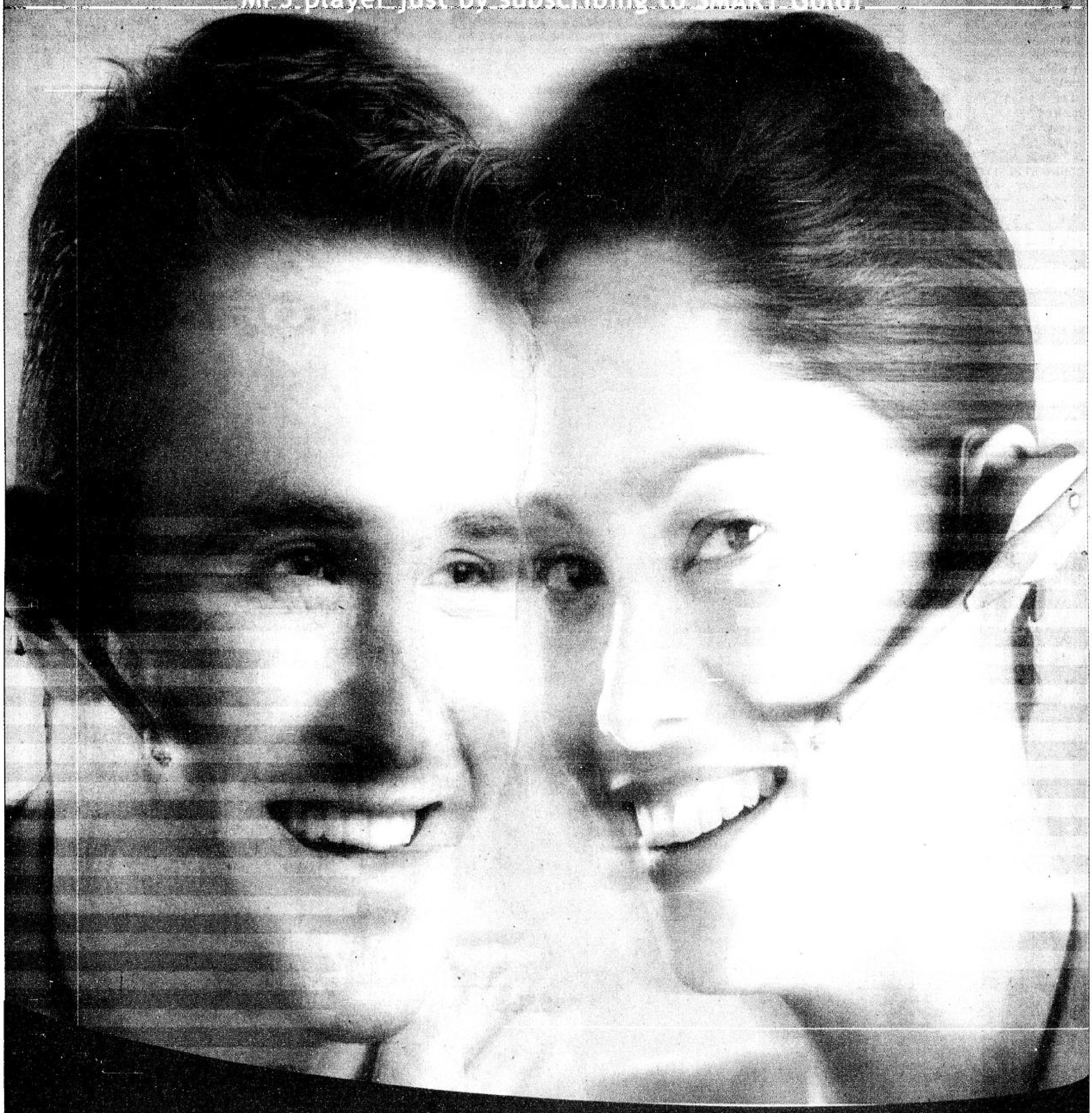

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Sunday LIFESTY

TNT Trends & Trendings

Purifying one's spirit, socialite on the campaign trail and another royal scandal

By Anton San Diego

MUST-HAVE HOME ACCESSORY. Incense is becoming popular nowadays.

MUST-HAVE home accessory. Like scented candles and burners, incense is also gaining popularity. The lighting of incense signifies a merging of two elements: Fire and air. It's a means of purification (of self and environment) and prayer. It has long been associated with Eastern spirituality but is now used for purposes that are far from spiritual. They come in different shapes and sizes from wands, matchsticks, coils and colors and scents ranging from ocean, strawberry, apple, patchouli. You can purchase them at any of the trendy boutiques in Manila like Firma, Kish and B at Home.

Diary of Constance Brooke San Lorenzo vda. de Pendelton. This week our unabashed and uncensored lady is hot on the campaign trail with the People's Power Coalition (PPC).

I just spent the afternoon with my shrink and have come to a momentous discovery. I have figured out the main reason behind **Loi**'s fascination with her chubby husband, El Gordo himself. Well, in the Philippines, fat is associated with rich, because fat means you can eat a lot.

On the campaign trail—Day 1. Don't you think it's so sad to attend a rally and be part of the audience? It's more chic to be onstage with the candidates. And how is my poor maid **Irma** going to hold the umbrella over my head in a large crowd? Perhaps I'll volunteer in one of the campaign offices tomorrow, but I must fortify myself with some vodka.

ANOTHER ROYAL SCANDAL. This time involving the Countess of Wessex, Sophie Rhys-Jones (Prince Edward's wife)

Day 2. I tried to volunteer at the campaign offices of this woman candidate and one youth volunteer had the nerve to ask me if I was the former Mare, and if so, what was I doing there? Then he assumed I must be looking for Loi's or **Jamby Madrigal**'s campaign office. So I politely told him I wanted to help his candidate. He called the cops because I was reportedly disturbing the peace and trying to molest him. Well, my voice was a bit loud, but disturbing the peace? He wasn't that cute! Tomorrow I'll just try the rally route.

Day 3. This is not going to work. When I went to my first political rally, it was a disaster of epic proportions. It was sooo hot and you had to wait for people to show up. Then you had to watch 13 intelligent people singing and dancing. Why don't they just talk about what they plan to do about beautification, like my good friend **Imelda**? And all these people in the crowd kept snickering at me. And no one seemed to notice my ultra chic Chanel espadrilles and Celine outfit? Anyway, when **Sharon Cuneta** came out, the crowd went wild. Sensing an opportunity, I forced my way (actually I used my faithful maid Irma as a battering ram) to get up to the stage so I could make some small talk. The guard refused to let me in because I did not have an ID, so I took out my Polo Club ID and he said it was not good enough. Then I started screaming until I found myself being hauled off by security people for disturbing the peace (again?!?) and none of the candidates even bothered to help me. Well, I am not putting up with this anymore. Puwersa ng Masa, here I come... Yes, Loi, your best friend is back! So get the vodka ready.

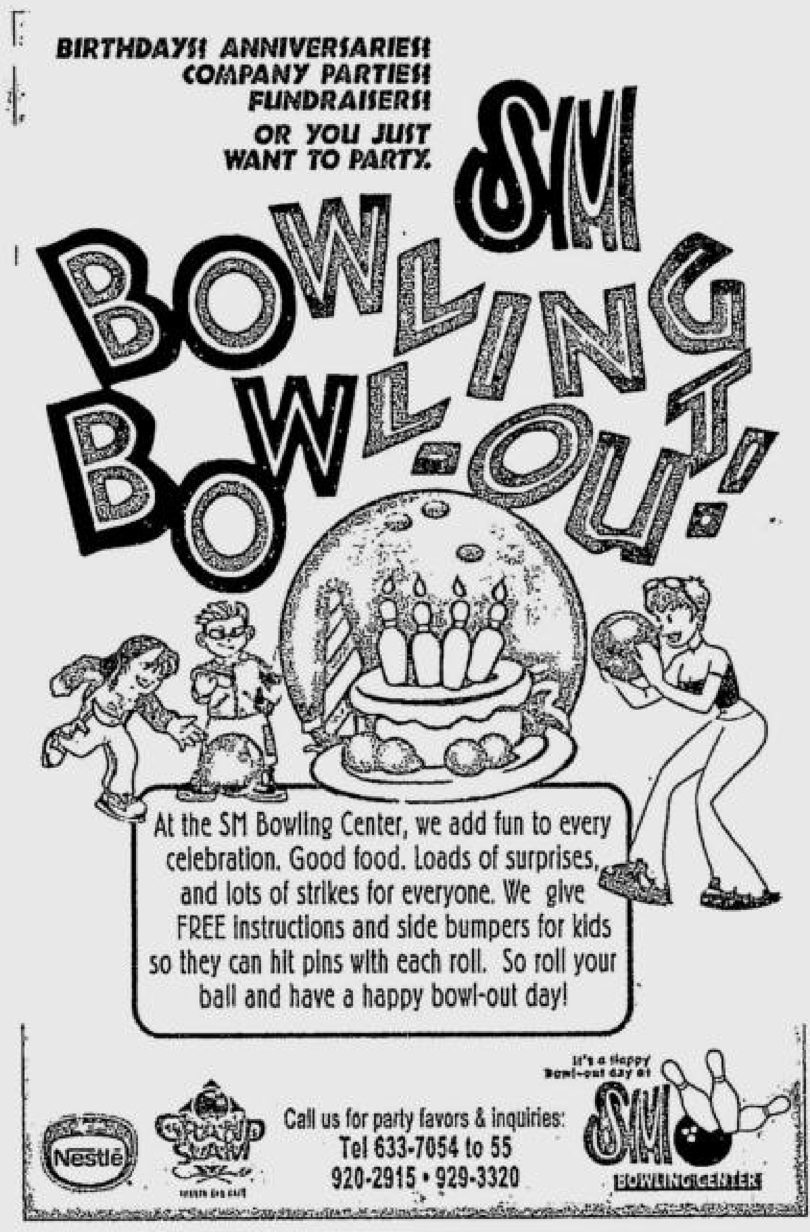
TNT tidbits

ANOTHER UK royalty rocks the Palace. On the heels of **Princess Stephanie** comes another royalty scandal that's shaking not only Buckingham Palace but London as a whole. It involves **Prince Edward**'s wife (Diana lookalike), the Countess of Wessex **Sophie Rhys-Jones**. During a business meeting, a reporter, disguised as an Arab sheik and a potential customer for her PR firm, taped their conversation. In the tapes she made bitchy remarks regarding UK Prime Minister **Tony Blair**, her husband, the late **Princess Diana** and **Camilla Parker-Bowles**. She said of Diana, "You still get fanatical diehards, but it all came out after her death about the way she behaved." Of her husband, "He is not gay," a response to rumors about his sexuality and the reason they still do not have a child. And Camilla: "Whenever she and Charles go out they are No. 1 on the 10 Most Unpopular People." After her talk with **Queen Elizabeth**, she stepped down as chair of her PR firm.

Versace Hotel. After the much hyped and successful launch of their first hotel in Queensland, Australia, comes their second hotel a bit closer to home and more accessible. The second 6-star, $800-1,000-a-night hotel will be in Phuket, Thailand. There are other Versace hotels reportedly planned to be built in South Korea, Japan and Hong Kong. The cost of said hotel is $40 million. In a three-day Sotheby's auction of the late designer's furniture, art, clothing and sketches in his Miami mansion, the sale generated over $10 million, exceeding the $5-7 million Sotheby's estimate. Although the names of buyers are a secret, they reportedly include Versace's friends: **Madonna**, **Elton John** and **Liz Hurley**.

Wishing everyone a great vacation and a Happy Easter!

E-mail the author at asd_world @hotmail.com



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When brushing is not enough

BY CHARLES E. BUBAN

Rinsing with an antimicrobial mouthwash cleans up certain areas that are difficult to reach with brushing and flossing

WE have experienced how a toothache felt like. The pain is so unlike any other that we cringe just remembering it. Our teeth may be the hardest part of our anatomy but these are no match to the bacteria that nibble at them. That's why they still require the most stringent care in order to remain as such.

But as we take care of our teeth, we shouldn't be missing the bigger issue here: Oral care. A toothache or the loss of a tooth can be a sign of weak gums. Next to the skin, our mouth is most prone to bacteria assault since it is always in contact with foreign bodies from the food we eat and the liquids we drink. The mouth is always teeming with bacteria.

According to the recent Department of Health report, 91.6 percent of the population have dental caries while 78 percent suffer from gum disease. The same report also says that 90 percent of all adults will experience gingivitis in their lives. Gingivitis, an early stage of gum disease, can be reversed through thorough daily removal of plaque and regular professional cleaning. But since only 2 percent claim to floss daily and the time spent on brushing only lasts a brief 37 seconds on average, even those who currently appear to have healthy gums and teeth can develop gingivitis, which can lead to periodontitis and tooth loss.

Time and again, we are taught the best way to control bacteria and tooth decay-causing plaque is through brushing and flossing.

Likewise, mouth rinsing is of equal importance: Rinsing with an antimicrobial mouthwash cleans up certain areas that are difficult to reach with brushing and flossing. For those with implants, crowns, bridgeworks, orthodontic devices (braces) or those with sensitive gums, brushing and flossing can be difficult, so rinsing completes their oral cleaning regimen.

Dentists suggest the following steps practiced after every meal: brush, floss, then rinse for at least 30 seconds twice daily.

If done consistently and properly—the brushing, flossing and rinsing—along with routine trips to the dentist (at least twice a year), the regimen should be sufficient in fighting tooth decay and periodontal disease.

By taking care of your teeth, eating a balanced diet and visiting your dentist regularly, you can have healthy teeth and an attractive smile your entire life.

The effective antimicrobial mouthwash

PERHAPS it should come as no surprise that Listerine tops other brands when it comes to mouthwash. As the only mouthwash recognized and endorsed by the Philippine Dental Association, Listerine is proven to prevent and reduce plaque, gingivitis, and bad breath.

Listerine, available in Original and Cool Mint flavors, has active ingredients that kill bacteria. These bacteria accumulate to form plaque that in turn, causes tooth decay and gum disease.

With so many products applying for PDA acceptance, Listerine is the only one approved under mouthwash product. "The association doesn't just hand out approvals on any product endorsed to us. The PDA's council for dental research tests and evaluates the product in conjunction with the Bureau of Food and Drugs. That is only the time when the PDA upholds its findings for the product," says Dean Renato Sison, president of the Philippine Dental Association.

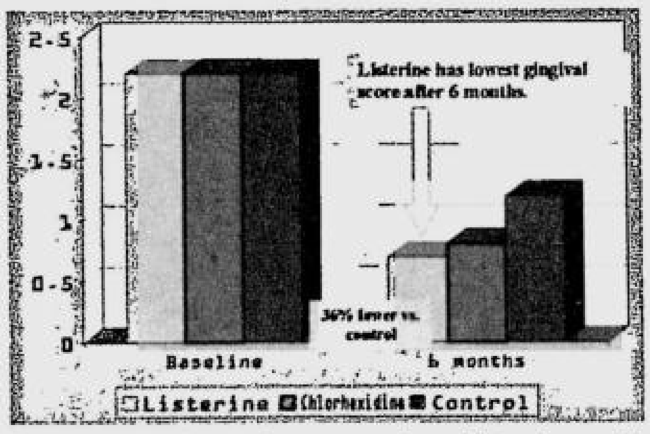
> *'The association doesn't just hand out approvals on any product endorsed to us'*
>
> —PHILIPPINE DENTAL ASSOCIATION

The need for an effective antimicrobial mouthwash comes at a very opportune time when the country reels from a decline in its state of oral hygiene. "It is a fact that in the Philippines there is a dwindling state of dental health—over 90 percent of Filipinos have dental caries while some 78 percent suffer from gum diseases. We need to check this development through various campaigns. In fact, one mouthwash product, Listerine, has taken an active role in gum care advocacy when it launched an advertising campaign last year. We need more of these proper oral health care promotions." says Sison.

Listerine was the first over-the-counter mouthwash product in the United States proven to help in controlling plaque and gingivitis. No less than the American Dental Association has placed its seal of acceptance on it.

Two US studies show how Listerine effectively stops and reverses gingivitis

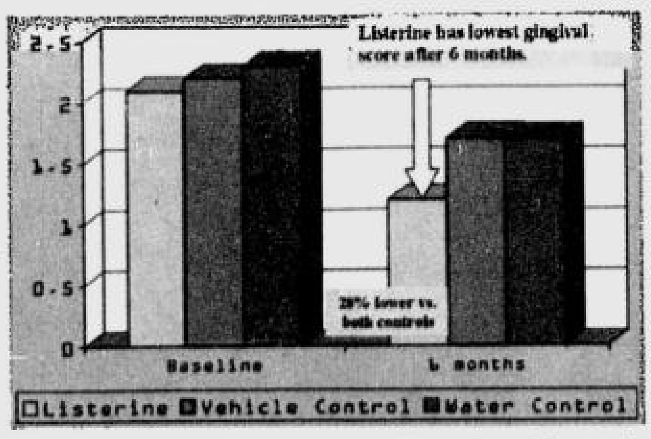
Overholser Study



In a 6-month study comparing Listerine with Chlorhexidine, Listerine is shown to reduce the occurence of gingivitis by 36 percent, against Chlorhexidine's 30.5 percent.

Much more, subjects who rinsed with Listerine showed no sign of increased staining in their teeth or supragingival calculus that is evident in those who used Chlorhexidine.

Lamster Study



In a 6-month study comparing Listerine with sterile water and 27 percent alcohol solution, Listerine is shown to reduce the development of gingivitis by 27.7 percent against an alcohol solution, while a 28.2 percent advantage against using a sterile water.

Without this, we'll just be another mouthwash.

RECOGNIZED PDA PHILIPPINE DENTAL ASSOCIATION

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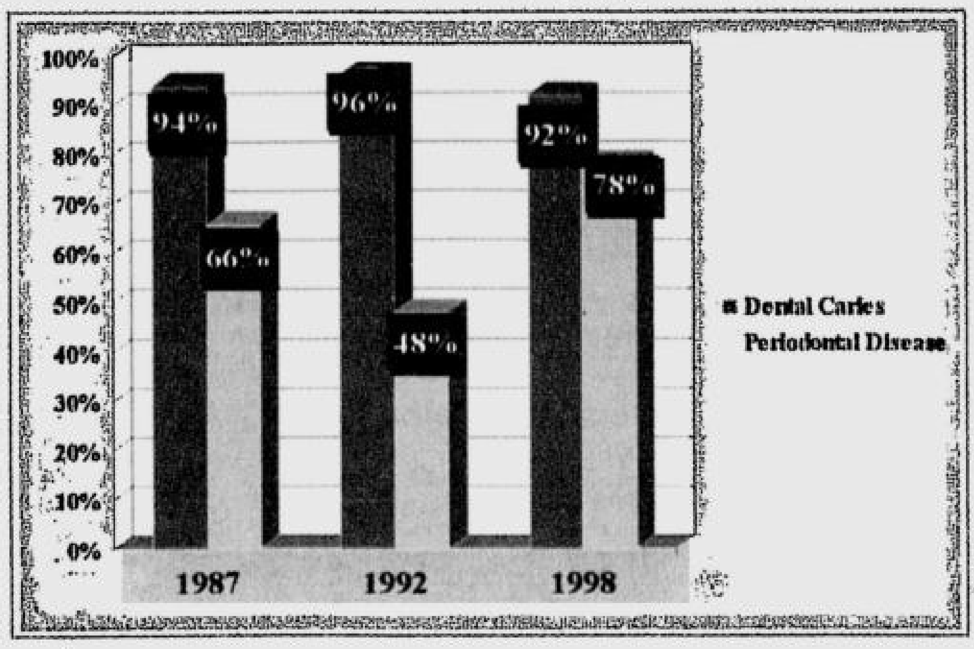
A group's crusade to uplift RP's state of dental health

> Dental patients of all ages—and in all situations may require additional motivation and reinforcement. In raising dental patients' awareness, the commitment of caring dental professionals is needed while continuing education a necessity

B. F. SKINNER once said that "education is what survives when what has been learned has been forgotten." For the Philippine Dental Association his words ring true of their mission, as the association embarks on an unprecedented effort to reeducate the population on the proper oral hygiene while elevating the country's dental health status.



The Philippine Dental Association is alarmed by the country's dwindling state of dental health —over 90 percent of Filipinos have dental caries while some 78 percent suffer from gum diseases

Photos by JOHNNY VILLENA

FOR Dean Renato Sison, president of the Philippine Dental Association, the time is now to turn the country's dwindling state of dental health around.

Dean Renato Sison of the Philippine Dental Association loves to reminisce on the old times. "A couple of decades ago, we had a better state of dental health. Back then, we had a centralized government arm, the Bureau of Dental Health Services which directed the operations of all dental health activities in the country," remembers Sison, who is PDA's incumbent president.

The absence of a more concrete law governing dental health today somehow aggravates the downward trend of the country's dental health situation. With the reorganization of the Health Department's structure, health personnel have been devolved to local government units. As a result, the department no longer has a direct power to deliver adequate dental health care to the people.

"This is compounded by the fact that only 1,500 dentists are employed with the government and further distributed to the military, DOH and DECS. They serve a population close to 78 million Filipinos," reports Sison.

Reversing the trend

In recent years, the PDA has taken an active role in promoting dental health. "We instructed our dentists to have an office manager whose primary task is patient recall. They will monitor patient records and remind them of their next visit and why it is necessary," explains Sison.

By educating the population, the PDA is also starting to build a database for its next studies. This time the PDA refocused its program by involving only elementary pupils. The association instructed its various chapters and affiliates nationwide to work with all public schoolchildren under their jurisdiction.

The first step involves creating a base line data on the status of dental health of Grade One pupils. "As they go on to the next grade, their dental records will be attached to Form 138. The dentist will now check the progress and actions to be done if there is any. This process will go on until the child reaches Grade Six," explains Sison.

By the time these children graduate from the elementary, the PDA would now have outlined its 6-year program. "At the end of six years, we can evaluate and consolidate the statistics which we will report before the government," assures Sison.

Reforming, creating laws

The PDA has found out that the existing laws governing dental health care are either antiquated or inadequate. One example involves the continuing professional education of dentists. "Because of the modernization law, the requirement for credit-earning units was abolished. Continuing education has to be intensified since with the onset of globalization, our dentists might end up in the losing end competition-wise," says Sison.

The PDA is also enjoining local governments to adopt PDA chapters and affiliates in their area as a non-government organization. "Once classified as an NGO, our chapters and affiliates can now avail of financial backing from the local government while at the same time deliver dental health care to its constituents."

Protecting the ranks against illegal practitioners has been another major challenge for the association. "You can't point them out right away since they come in many guises and the result of their malpractice cannot be known immediately," reports Sison.

To protect bona fide dental practitioners, PDA has worked closely with the Philippine National Police and has conducted regular meetings with regional commanders to arrest and prosecute illegal practitioners.

THE Philippine Dental Association is the only national organization of all dentists in the Philippines. With close to 16,000 members (against a total of 28,000), the association has 97 chapters and 20 affiliates all over the country. Founded in 1909, 'it has pursued numerous programs in the promotion of oral health care and in improving the welfare of dental practitioners.

PDA is among the party list andidates vying for a seat in Congress this coming May elections.

But the law governing illegal practice is somehow inadequate. Under the Penal Code, illegal practice is punishable by a mere one year imprisonment or a P5,000 fine, which obviously does not help in fending off offenders. "We want a penal provision that will deter illegal practitioners, otherwise the profession will suffer in the long run," explains Sison who four months ago submitted before Congress a recommendation to increase the fine to P200,000 and length of imprisonment to 15 years.

Insurance for dental patients

"It is unfortunate that because of hard times only a few can avail the services of our dentists," laments Sison. In looking into this situation, PDA has tapped private insurance company Megatech Insurance Corp. to provide dental insurance. "This way, our dental patients are given the right and the best treatment while our dentists are paid substantially by the insurance company," he explains.

Dentists who would want to be accredited must apply for membership at any PDA chapter and have his or her clinic checked by the association's accrediting board.

With this arrangement, PDA hopes to elevate the quality of dental practice and professionalism in the country. "No longer will we equate quality of service to cost. Since our dentists are given the right fee (by the insurance), it is now their duty to give out a much better service," says Sison.

A new home in the offing

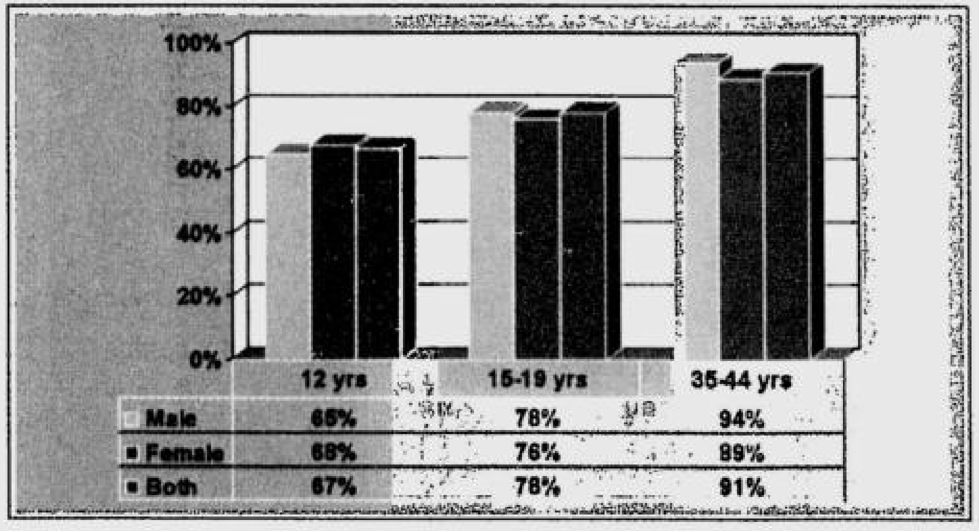
Sison reports that the association is envisioning its own headquarters which will house not only a research and rehabilitation center and function rooms but lodging rooms for visiting dentists as well.

This early, that vision comes closer to realization at the Bases Conversion Development Authority donated to the PDA, a 500,000-sqm lot located within the Global City in Fort Bonifacio.

"Our lobbying bore fruit. This five-story headquarter we are envisioning will become a center for oral health care," says Sison. "I may not be able to realize that dream during my term but I do hope the next leaders of this association will make it a reality for the good of the whole profession."

Data shown here were sourced from the 1998 study conducted by the Department of Health

Prevalence of periodontal disease in the Philippines



Prevalence of periodontal disease in select countries

Country	Year Gathered	Age of Subjects	Average Number of Sextant				
			0	1	2	3	4
Australia	1988	15	0.9	5.1	3.8	0.9	0.0
Cambodia	1990	15	0.8	5.3	4.7	0.2	0.0
China	1992	15-19	2.0	4.0	3.9	0.1	0.0
Cook Islands	1984	15-19	1.0	5.0	4.0	0.2	0.0
French Polynesia	1988	15-19	5.7	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.0
Hong Kong	1984	15-19	1.1	4.9	4.4	0.5	0.0
Japan	1988	15	2.7	3.1	2.5	0.2	0.0
Korea Republic	1991	15	5.1	0.9	0.6	0.0	0.0
Lao P.D. Republic	1991	15-19	3.0	3.0	2.4	0.0	0.0
Malaysia	1997	15-19	3.0	3.0	2.2	0.1	0.0
New Zealand	1982	15-19	4.8	1.2	0.3	0.1	0.0
Papua New Guinea	1990	15-19	1.4	4.7	2.5	0.4	0.1
Philippines	**1998**	**15-19**	**3.4**	**0.7**	**1.5**	**0.1**	**0.1**
Tonga	1986	15-19	4.5	1.5	1.2	0.0	0.0
Vanuatu	1991	15-19	1.8	4.2	3.7	0.1	0.0
Vietnam	1993	15-19	2.0	5.8	4.7	1.7	0.1

ABOVE data shows average number of sextants with the Corresponding Community Periodontal Treatment Needs in countries of the World Health Organization Western Pacific region by year of examination and age. Additional reference is provided on the right data regarding the Modified Gingival Index.

Methods for Scoring Gingivitis

The Modified Gingival Index (MGI)[1]

0 =	Absence of inflammation
1 =	Mild inflammation; slight change in color, little change in texture of any portion but not the entire marginal or papillary gingival unit
2 =	Mild inflammation; criteria as above but involving the entire marginal or papillary gingival unit
3 =	Moderate inflammation; glazing, redness, edema, and/or hypertrophy of the marginal or papillary gingival unit
4 =	Severe inflammation; marked redness, edema and/or hypertrophy of the marginal or papillary gingival unit, spontaneous bleeding, congestion, or ulceration

Provides a noninvasive scoring method
Developed for use in clinical trials because of the increased sensitivity achieved at the lower end of the scoring range

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[1] Lobene RR Weatherford T Ross NM. Lamm RA. Menaker L. A modified gingival index for use in clinical trials 1986, 8-3-6

JEFFREY Quizon at the Famas

Deprived of a grand slam, Jeffrey Quizon is unstoppable

COMPILED BY LITO B. ZULUETA

FRIENDS and fans of **Jeffrey Quizon** are in for a disappointment. The young actor isn't likely to score a grand slam for his award-winning turn as a budding homosexual in RVQ Films' "Markova: Comfort Gay."

After winning four best supporting actor awards in a row from such major award-giving bodies as the Metro Manila Film Festival, Star, Urian and Famas, many were predicting Jeffrey would win anew once members of the Film Academy of the Philippines hand out their awards next May.

So we thought, too, until his brother **Ronnie Quizon** e-mailed us recently:

"I'm afraid, however, that the grand slam you're talking about will not happen because my brother [Jeffrey] is not qualified for the FAP awards as he is not a member of the [actors'] guild. He had no idea and nobody told him that he should be a member before he qualifies for even a nomination.

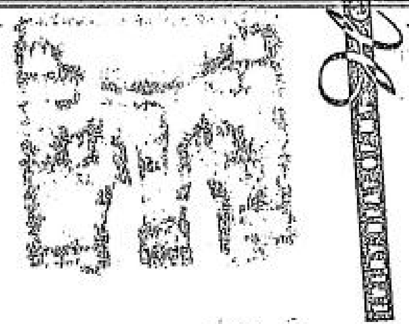
"When he found out about it, of course, he went to the office right away to apply for membership. This is, after all, a rare chance of a lifetime. Sad to say, the person at the office told him that it was too late. Even **Eric [Quizon]** who was nominated for Best Actor had to be taken out of the list since he hadn't renewed his membership."

Despite this setback, the Quizons (from Eric et al's branch, at least) remain squarely behind their brother. Isn't it obvious? After the film was shown, wrote Ronnie, Jeffrey was swamped with meaty offers.

Indeed, all these blessings are reason enough to celebrate and thank the Lord, as Jeffrey is wont to do every time he wins a trophy. You can't put a good actor down.

Pink Sisters jam for the Lord

TO GET an extra Easter high, why not listen to "Every Beat of My Heart" by the Pink Sisters? The CD contains well-loved classical and contemporary religious songs that will put you in a contemplative mood as only contemplative nuns like the Pink Sisters can. Songs include "Panis Angelicus" (music by Cesar Frank), "Hail Mary" (music by Sr. **Ma. Rosalina Abejo**, RVM), "Live Quietly with God" (music by **Joseph Roff** and lyrics by Blessed **Arnold Janssen**, SVD and Mother **Mary Michael**, SSpSAP), "Every Beat of My Heart" (music by **Edward J. Peklo** and lyrics by Blessed Arnold Janssen, SVD), "In Adoration (a Hymn of Praise)" (music by **J.C.H. Rinck**), "Laudate Dominum II" (music by **C. Ett.**) and "Breathe in Me, O Holy Spirit" (music by Joseph Roff from St. Augustine's prayer to the Holy Spirit). With **Antonio** and **Madeline Tuviera** as executive producers, "Every Beat of My Heart" is Catholic contemplative music with a difference. It is available at GiftGate-Greenhills.



CD of songs by Pink Sisters

Good Samaritan

STORIES of lost and stolen cellular phones are a dime a dozen these days. You rarely hear of people recovering their cell phones, however much less tales of people who found them returning them to owners.

But recently one of 2bU!'s regular correspondents found a kind soul in one janitor at Glorietta 4 cinemas. **Jules Alcantara**, together with her boyfriend, caught the last full show of "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon." Before the movie, she used the ladies room where she inadvertently left her cell phone by the sink. Since the phone was on mute, she did not notice that her cell phone was missing. It was a good 30 minutes into the movie when she realized that she did not have her phone. She was almost in tears since it would be the phone she would lose.

Good thing **Lita Urbanozo** of the Environmental General Manpower Services was kind enough to keep the cell phone till someone came to claim it. Without expecting any reward, she gladly kept the cell phone in a safe place until Jules came looking for it.

Suite under pressure

DURING "Black Saturday's" (April 7) horrendous blackout, Manila Galleria Suites found itself swamped with people seeking refuge from the heat, dying to check in. Thumbs up to their front office staff (among them former actress Bunny Paras) who handled each inquiry and check-in with admirable grace under pressure.

Unable to take even a brief break to grab a bite, the front office staff kept their cool and remained generous with their smiles even though they were obviously harassed and bone-weary.

Thumbs up, too, to the security guards on each floor as they graciously greeted each guest warmly. The next day at breakfast, Café Rafael, the hotel's coffee shop played host to a battalion of guests,each of whom got served patiently.

CEO's grace under pressure

THE ANNUAL stockholders meeting of one of the country's top telecommunications firms was held without a hitch, with the chair and CEO delivering a near-flawless report complete with bright projections for the year ahead.

But the open forum was something else. One old woman stood up to comment, "After listening to your beautiful message about our high income last year and prospects for more growth this year, I realize that Jesus is coming. With all these technological advancements, the time has finally come."

If the CEO was flabbergasted, he didn't show it. He politely acknowledged the comment and asked for more questions from the floor, after all, the woman was a faithful stockholder. She was entitled to her own opinion, no matter how bizarre it might sound.

But there were other curious comments and questions from the floor. "What are we doing about obscene text messages?" one stockholder thundered. The CEO and his vice presidents also handled that one well. He said the matter was being reviewed by the National Telecommunications Commission. The stockholder did not want to censor text messages and risk alienating the people who have taken readily to text messaging because of the freedom it affords, did he? After all, the company has grown by leaps and bounds after introducing text technology ahead of the pack.

Still another stockholder had a fantastic proposal. Noting that the rival telecoms company was set to acquire GMA 7, he called for a similar strategy. "Why don't we buy IBC 13?" he asked.

The CEO benignly acknowledged the suggestion. Thank God, an officer said, the stockholders' meeting is held only once a year.

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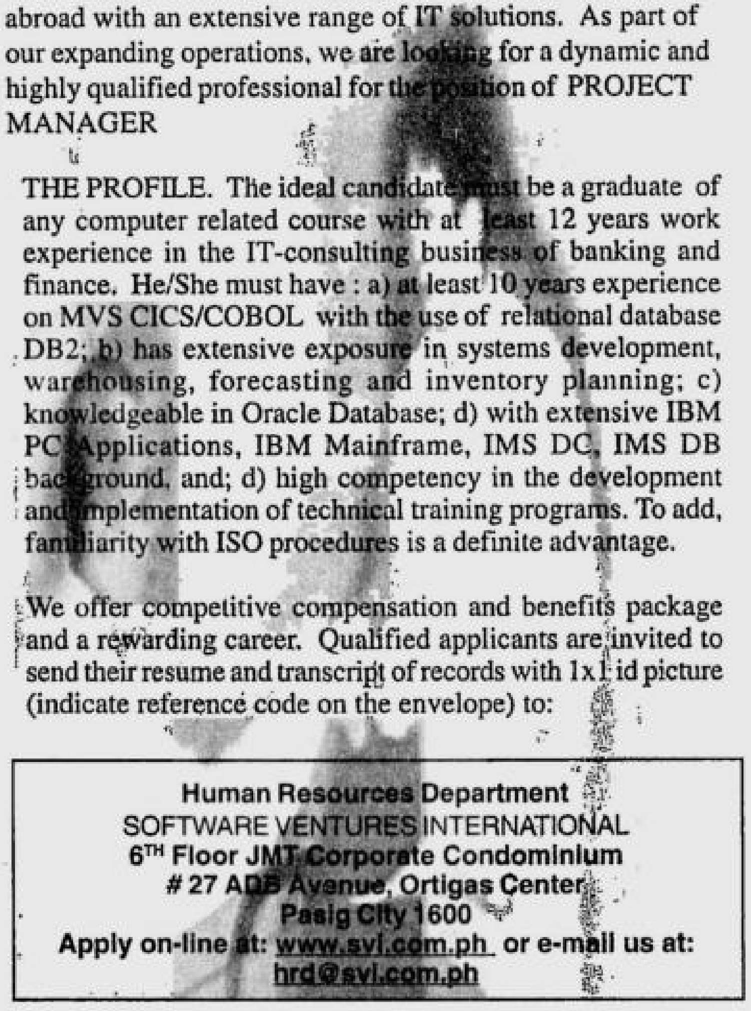

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- ☑ Has at least 2-3 years experience in non-life insurance
- ☑ Preferably with Underwriting skills on all lines
- ☑ Computer literate (MS Applications)

Applicants may bring their resume, Transcript of Records and 2x2 colored picture; or

Mail their application letters with the above documents to: **Human Resources Section**, UCPB Gen., 24th Floor LKG Tower, Ayala Avenue, Makati City or e-mail to personnel@ucpbgen.com strictly in text form only.

To the successful applicants, we offer:

- Competitive compensation package
- Comprehensive company benefits
- Continuing education & professional development

AL HABIB INTERNATIONAL SERVICES

Suite 5, 2nd floor Midland Plaza
M. Adriatico St., Ermita, Manila
Tel. #3021831/5246651
POEA LIC. 499-LB-102600
Accre. No. 62925

Is in need of the following

MARKETING & SALES REPRESENTATIVE

- with Driver License
- must be college graduate
- fluent in English
- with experience in the said category/ in rent a car or sale

RECEPTIONIST

- with pleasing personality
- with experience in hotels
- must be college graduate
- fluent in English, oral and written communication
- height at least 5'7"

ACCOUNTANT

- graduate in B.S. in ACCOUNTANCY
- with experience in the said category

AUTO DENTER
AUTO MECHANIC
AUTO ELECTRICIAN

- at least with experience in the said category
- at least 30-40 years of age

ALL INTERESTED APPLICANTS MAY REPORT AND SUBMIT THEIR RESUMÉ.

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Stores Specialists, Inc.

IS IN NEED OF HIGH CALIBER CANDIDATES FOR

MERCHANDISING DIVISION MANAGER for HOME (R-MDM)

- ➢ At least 28 years old.
- ➢ Graduate of a 4-year business related course, preferably an MBA degree holder.
- ➢ With at least two (2) years experience in the retail business in a managerial capacity.
- ➢ Must have excellent oral and written communication skills.
- ➢ Must be analytical, results-oriented, artistic, creative and with good fashion sense.
- ➢ Must possess a pleasing and dynamic personality.
- ➢ Must be computer literate.

ANALYST/PROGRAMMER (R-A/P)

- ➢ Between 28 to 35 years old.
- ➢ B.S. degree graduate, preferably in Computer Engineering, Computer Science, Engineering or other related course.
- ➢ Extensive knowledge in computer programming, systems design and analysis.
- ➢ Must be proficient on the following:
  - AS/400, SQL/400, CL/400, JDA, UNIX, INFORMIX, ORACLE, PARADOX, VISUAL FOXPRO, GSA Programming.
- ➢ Relevant training in Information Technology environment is an advantage (at least one (1) year as Systems Analyst/Programmer, Networking Staff or Computer Operator)
- ➢ Must have strong analytical and interpersonal skills.
- ➢ Must possess high aptitude and intelligence.
- ➢ Must have excellent verbal, written and presentation skills.
- ➢ Must be creative, resourceful, flexible and a good team player.

ASSISTANT WAREHOUSE MANAGER (R-AWM)

- ➢ Between 30 to 45 years old.
- ➢ Graduate of a (4) four-year college course.
- ➢ At least two (2) years work experience in warehouse operations in a managerial capacity.
- ➢ Must possess a pleasing and dynamic personality, impeccable integrity and good moral character.
- ➢ Must be computer literate.

Please send your application with contact numbers indicated, transcript of records and a recent 2x2 photo through mail to:

Personnel Department
STORES SPECIALISTS, INC.
4th Floor, Midland Buendia Building
#403 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City

(Only qualified applicants will be scheduled for an interview)
PLEASE INDICATE POSITION CODE

MEDICard PHILS. INC.

One of the country's leading HMO is looking for assertive, dynamic and energetic individuals to fill up the following vacancies:

CLAIMS SUPERVISOR

- Graduate of BS Accountancy or BS Commerce major in Accounting.
- With at least 1 to 2 years of experience in the same capacity preferably gained in an insurance or HMO setting. Must be knowledgeable in processing of claims.
- Must possess strong leadership ability and excellent communication skills.
- Computer literate.

CLAIMS PROCESSOR

- Female, graduate of Accounting with at least six months experience in the same field.
- Must be proficient in Windows-based application.

Qualified and interested applicants are requested to apply personally. Bring resumé, transcript of records and 2x2 photo at:

Medicard Phils., Inc.: Human Resources Department
8/F Sagittarius Bldg., H.V. Dela Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City
Email us at rsalmon@medicardphils.com

(Previous applicants need not apply)

BACOLOD CONVENTION PLAZA HOTEL

IMMEDIATELY NEEDS

MANILA SALES MANAGER

- Female, 29-35 years old; computer literate
- At least 3 years Sales and Marketing Supervisory experience
- Will receive competitive salary + allowances, service charge and incentives

SALES ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

- Female, 25-33 years old
- At least 1 year Sales and Marketing experience
- Highly motivated, results-oriented

Submit application letter, resumé and transcript of records to:

Unit 1218 Cityland Herrera Tower
98 Herrera cor. Valero Sts., Salcedo Village, Makati City
Telefax 892-9184

or

Bacolod Convention Plaza Hotel
Magsaysay Avenue, Bacolod City

A leading distributor of lighting fixtures is in need of the following positions:

ACCOUNTANTS

- Female/Male, not more than 30 years old
- Accounting graduate, computer literate
- With 4 to 5 years work experience

STORE SUPERVISORS

- Female, with pleasing personality
- Not more than 30 years old
- Has 3 years work experience

For more details, please contact
telephone numbers 330-2101 / 330-9979
Mondays thru Fridays from 8:30 a.m. -- 5:00 p.m. ONLY.
Email: jm1@inquirer.com.ph
Subject: CU-SOL

** Previous applicants need not apply.*

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MAJOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
Under direct secondment by Lamar Management Services

LAMAR MANAGEMENT SERVICES, under assignment to a major development agency, has an immediate vacancy for a Project Officer and an Administrative Officer of a Multi-Sector International Development Program with annual funding of approximately P20M.

The position is based in a prestigious central Makati office, and will report directly to the Fund Coordinator of a leading International Development Agency.

Application is open to suitably qualified and experienced individuals who are highly competent, motivated, diligent, results-oriented and possess strong management abilities as well as excellent "people" skills.

PROJECT OFFICER

Professional Qualifications:

1. Good knowledge of the development needs of the Philippines.
2. Ability to assess and evaluate the developmental impact of small projects and their potential for sustainability.
3. Ability to communicate effectively, orally and in writing, in English. Knowledge of Filipino and other dialects would be an asset.
4. Willingness to travel in all regions of the country on a regular basis.
5. Knowledge of the country's environmental problems.
6. Knowledge of the status of women and children in the country, their particular roles and responsibilities and their integration in the development process.
7. Ability to work under challenging and demanding circumstances with a sense of urgency and high tolerance for pressure.
8. At least 2 years experience in development work.
9. Working knowledge on Microsoft Wordprocessing and Excel. Knowledge on Access would be an asset.
10. Should be a Teamplayer.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Professional Qualifications:

1. Good knowledge of the development needs of the Philippines.
2. Experience in maintaining a computerized database and management information system (MIS).
3. Ability to communicate effectively, orally and in writing in English. Knowledge of Filipino and other dialects would be an asset.
4. Experience in office administration work, including clerical and secretarial functions.
5. Ability to work under challenging and demanding circumstances with a sense of urgency and high tolerance for pressure.
6. At least 2 years experience in development work or development-related organization.
7. Working knowledge on Microsoft Wordprocessing, Excel and Access.
8. Should be a Teamplayer.

Application Procedure

This vacancy is on the basis of equal opportunity. All applications shall be treated as strictly confidential.

Interested applicants should submit a detailed resume not later than **30 April 2001**, stating clearly the position applied for.

i. via email to lamar@lamarph.com
ii. via facsimile to: 521-6797

Applications and/or resumes sent via email are preferred written in MS Word format to avoid software incompatibility. Pictures are not required.

Only short-listed applicants shall be notified. Successful candidates shall be expected to assume their duties not later than the **1st of June 2001.**

NURSES NEEDED

Via Pacific Placement Service, a California based company, working closely with an experienced U.S. Immigration Lawyer invites nurses:

- ✓ With CGFNS
- ✓ With or without experience
- ✓ Will assist in obtaining U.S. immigrant status
- ✓ Visa and job placement within a year

Help us fill this need while the opportunity is still wide open. Submit your resumé in person or visit us for more information.. Look for Ms. Daisy Bella.

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Tel. No. 928-9578
www.viapacificjobs.com
daiseCbell@aol.com

Roche

Who we are

We are a leading healthcare company with headquarters in Basel, Switzerland and with subsidiaries worldwide. Our business is dedicated to the discovery, research, production and marketing of high quality healthcare products. Operating successfully in the Philippines for over 35 years, we are proud to be one of the most stable multinational companies in the country today.

Artist *(Application code: ART)*

The Position

The main responsibilities include visual conceptualization, design and execution of artworks for product literature, display booths, brochures, labels, packaging, posters and other artwork requirements of the company within lead time.

Who you are

Preferably with a college degree in Fine Arts, you must have at least 3 years experience as commercial artist. Samples of your artwork will be required during the interview. Computer literate and proficient in CorelDraw, Adobe PhotoShop, Adobe Illustrator, PageMaker, MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint and other similar programs. Articulate and able to relate with different levels of employees.

Secretary *(Application Code: RXS)*

The Position

Reporting to the Marketing Director, the main function calls for providing efficient and effective secretarial and administrative support to the Pharmaceutical business unit.

Who you are

The ideal candidate must be a college graduate, with at least 3 years secretarial experience. Proficiency in MS Office programs, outstanding interpersonal skills, facility in oral and written English communications are required. Systematic and organized, with a keen eye for details and can work with minimum supervision. Female, preferably single.

Who to Contact

Submit your resumé with recent passport size picture and contact telephone number no later than ***Friday, 20 April 2001*** to:

The Human Resources Department
Application Code :______
Roche (Philippines) Inc.
2252 Don Chino Roces Avenue,
Makati City

Only qualified candidates will be called for interview.

SINGAPORE HUMAN Resource Consultants Pte Ltd
Accreditation No. 55031

A Call Center company in Singapore urgently needs quality candidates to fill-in vacant positions

Open position:

CUSTOMER SERVICE OFFICERS

Candidates should be a degree holder, male/female, below 35 years old. Pleasing personality, fluent in English, computer literate and with a minimum 2 years experience in Call Center.

Successful candidates will be offered a 2-year contract-renewable, attractive salary package, life insurance, performance-based bonus, and career advancement.

Interested applicant may apply personally with their resumé, diploma, T/R, Employment Certificates, Passport and other pertinent documents (all must be prepared in A4 sizes bond paper)

FINAL INTERVIEW DATES: 17 - 19 APRIL 2001

IDEAS SERVICES & DEVELOPMENT CO., INC.
12 Kasing-Kasing Street corner K-9 Street
East Kamias, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. 435-1769; 433-4494

This ad is allowed under MC-2
MAG-INGAT SA ILLEGAL RECRUITER

British Embassy
Manila

seeks an

ASSISTANT ACCOUNTANT

Applicant must be proficient in the English language (both oral and written); Computer literate (MS Word and Excel) including Computerized Accountancy, with 3 years relevant experience within a financial institution. Starting salary is P16,919 monthly rising to P18,567 within a few months and after the training, with annual increments of P824 rising to P26,807 monthly.

Please submit your curriculum vitaé, 2x2 photograph, copy of Transcript of Records and hand written letter of application addressed to:

Management Officer (AA)
British Embassy
17/F, L V Locsin Building
6752 Ayala Avenue, Makati City 1226

Deadline for submission is on 18 April 2001, Wednesday at 12:00 noon. Only successful applicants will be notified. Enquiries about this vacancy will not be entertained.

Network Marketing Company
Sales and Marketing Executives

...A Career Opportunity...

International MLM Company marketing high quality consumable products, requires:

- Qualified sales leaders for corporate position
- To design and implement effective strategies to achieve corporate goals
- To train, inspire and lead our fast-growing distributor force to achieve their Individual goals
- Attractive Salary package

Rush your details in writing or fax to:

Vice President, MLM Corporate Sales
P.O. Box 1846
Makati Central Post Office
Makati City, 1258
Fax No. (02) 810-6352

All communications treated with 100% confidentiality

COST CONTROLLER

Qualifications:

- ✓ Male or Female, 25 years of age and above
- ✓ Graduate of business related courses, preferably accounting
- ✓ Must be computer literate
- ✓ With at least three years experience in a managerial position
- ✓ Two years experience in cost & property control administration
- ✓ With knowledge of cost accounting procedures and be familiar with cost report preparation and analytical techniques
- ✓ Honest and efficient
- ✓ With good communication skills both oral and written

CHIEF ACCOUNTANT

Qualifications:

- ✓ Male or Female, 30 years of age and above
- ✓ Must be graduated in a University, major in Accounting
- ✓ Must be CPA
- ✓ Three years experience in the same position, preferably from golf course, hotel or any other service business establishment
- ✓ With string background in location and cost control
- ✓ Computer literate
- ✓ Good communication skills both oral and written

Kindly send resumé at Subic Bay Golf & Country Club; Bldg. 6900, Binictican Drive, Subic Bay Freeport Zone or Unit 2805, 28th floor Summit One Building, 530 Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City.

We are a growing International MLM company marketing high quality consumable products. We are sourcing applicants for the position of:

CUSTOMER SERVICE ASSISTANT

The candidate should have good people relation skills. Efficient, self-motivated young woman with bright personality who enjoys challenges and is willing to accept increasing responsibilities. Future prospects are excellent.

Help us to grow... and grow with us!

Please send your application letter and resumé with references and contact number to:

CUSTOMER SERVICE
P.O. BOX 1846
Makati Central Post Office
1258 Makati City
or fax to: (02) 810-6352

Attention: The Administrative Manager

KYMCO

Access Road, Multinational Village, Parañaque, Metro Manila
Tel. Nos. (632)-8221052, 822-1053, 822-1052 Fax No. (632)-8221054

Accounting Personnel

1. BS Commerce Major in Accounting
2. 20-25 years old
3. With bookkeeping skills, experience in inventory keeping, recording and reporting, including administration of receivables & payables, and cash management
4. Experience in an auto-servicing company will be an advantage
5. Willing to be assigned in Marikina or Mandaluyong and amenable to long working hours
6. Computer literate and knowledgeable in computerized accounting software
7. Analytical, flexible and with a high sense of responsibility
8. Systematic and organized
9. Can work with minimal supervision

Interested parties should send their detailed resume with latest inexpensive ID picture and copy of their transcript of records to Mr. Gilbert Molina at SC KYMCO Pilipinas, Inc., Access Road, Multinational Village, Parañaque City. Telephone numbers: 822-1056/822-1052 Fax Nos.: 822-1054. You can also email them at sckymco@info.com.ph or gilian@info.com.ph.

TECHNICAL/GENERAL

IMMEDIATE JOB OPENING IN PS BANK TOWER

WE NEED:

- Energetic men and women of at least 20-38 years of age
- College graduates of at least 4-year course from reputable schools and universities
- Individuals who have a good command of English and Filipino language
- Those who are ready to undergo comprehensive company training and can work at once.

WE OFFER:

- **A STARTING PAY OF P19,000.00**
- Company sponsored travels (here and abroad)
- Career development and growth with our automatic promotion system

APPLY AT:

8th Floor, Level B, Suite 808 PS Bank Tower
Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City
(Infront of Makati Medical Center)

See us in your proper business attire with two (2) passport-sized pictures, completed resumé/biodata and the clipping of this ad on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday (April 16, 17, 18 and 19, 2001) from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. only.

MAPP FOUNDATION

(Mutual Assistance For Philippine Professional Foundation)

MEMBERSHIP INVITATION AND JOB TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

Date of Inauguration	June 20, 2001
Topic	Japanese Special Technical Terms, Japanese Practices, Customs and Skills
First Term Trainees	OPEN FOR NURSING PROFESSIONALS to accommodate 750 students/trainee as per schedule Selected by way of Intermediate exams
Qualifications	below 45 years old Graduates of Nursing or medical schools or colleges
Second Term Trainee	OPEN FOR CAR & PRECISION MECHANIC to accommodate 1500 students
Qualifications	Below 45 years old Graduate of College or Vocational Schools
Duration	6-12 months
Schedule	Monday to Friday / Saturday, Sundays & Holidays
Accommodation	50 students per class 15 to 17 classes (Two Shifts)
Third Term Trainees	OPEN TO VARIOUS TRADE OCCUPATIONS
After Third Term	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT) for Engineers
Applicants Orientation Meeting	May 19, 2001, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Philippine International Convention Center CCP Complex, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City
Deadline for submission of Application	First Term Students - May 21, 2001 Final Selection May 31, 2001

FOR REGISTRATION AND PRE QUALIFICATION SUBMIT OR SEND RESUMÉ 2-2 X2 COLORED PICTURES, DIPLOMA OR CERTIFICATE TO MLA. OFF. ONLY

MLA. OFF.: 3rd Flr., Suite 25 LEGASPI TOWERS 300, Roxas Blvd., cor. VitoCruz, Malate, Mla. Tel. 525-5387, 536-5451, Email: www.mapp@maap.org.ph

CAVITE: Don Bosco Executive Vill., Governors Drive, Brgy. Cabuco, Trece Martires

(NOTE: ACCEPTANCE OF REGISTRATION WILL START ON APRIL 17, 2001)

Visit our website at
www.jobmarketonline.com

A very progressive foreign company is in need of:

One (1) ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

Competitive compensation awaits the successful candidate.

- Preferably Female, between 25-35 years old
- Graduate of Marketing or any 4-year Business related course
- Must have good communication skills and should be customer-oriented
- Must have initiative, ability and sustained interest in selling
- Must possess a pleasing and dynamic personality
- With driver's license is an advantage

We offer above-industry standard compensation package.

Please send by mail or personally your resumé with 2x2 picture at:

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Unit 607, The Taipan Place
Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center
Pasig City
E-mail: kital@pacific.net.ph

JAGUAR

JAGUAR CARS, INC. gives you an opportunity to sell one of the finest cars in the world.

If you are highly motivated, hardworking, dynamic, mature, results-oriented, an experienced car sales person (with an extensive network of VIP clients) and interested to sell JAGUAR, we are now hiring.

SALES EXECUTIVES

You may apply in person from
Monday to Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
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Makati City
Tel. No. 897-8888 Fax. 895-2677

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UBX

U-BIX CORPORATION, a leading provider of office equipment, furniture and related office services, is now accepting applications for ---

SALES REPRESENTATIVES
(PDI-SR)

- College graduates, not over 28 years old
- At least one year field sales experience
- Good communication skills; able to provide prompt and accurate reports
- Hardworking, assertive individuals who can stand challenges

CUSTOMER SERVICE OFFICERS
(PDI-CSO)

- Graduates from country's top universities; with degree in marketing or any business course
- Willing to do field work to personally interact with corporate clients
- Service-oriented and personable individuals; having business writing skills is an advantage
- Must be responsible, persevering and mature; not over 25 years old

TELEMARKETING EXECUTIVE
(PDI-TME)

- College graduates, not over 25 years old
- At least one year experience in call center operations and outbound telemarketing
- Service-oriented, with knowledge in prospecting and indirect selling through phone
- Mature, responsible and can work effectively in a fast-paced environment

We offer full compensation during the training period

Qualified applicants are requested to mail their resume with photo and transcript of records to

(POSITION CODE)
Recruitment and Training Group
1331 Angono St., J.P. Rizal Makati City
or e-mail us at ubxhrd@i-next.net

Konica COPIERS EPSON PRINTERS FUJITSU AIR CONDITIONERS RISO DIGITAL DUPLICATORS okamura OFFICE FURNITURE ServiceMASTER.

A fast growing restaurant chain
is in need of the following:

OPERATIONS MANAGER
RECEPTIONIST
WAITERS
COOKS
CASHIERS
VALET PARKERS

Send resumé with photo:

TMO Holdings Corporation
102 Katipunan Ave. Ext., Blue Ridge,
Project 4, Quezon City

THERE IS AN URGENT NEED FOR:

1 (One) Bookkeeper

Qualifications:

1. Accounting Graduate, 24-33 years old
2. Must be computer literate, preferably knowledgeable in ACCPAC
3. With at least 3 years of bookkeeping experience in a corporate setting

In addition, candidates for the above positions must have the following qualities:

- Hardworking, willing to work extended hours, and with good follow-through and initiative
- Able to fulfill his/her responsibilities within the prescribed time and with minimal supervision
- Honest and meticulous with his/her work
- Able to relate and communicate with other people effectively

Interested applicants may either fax their resumé to 723-1946 or bring their resumé to EMME Group of Companies, 8/F State Finance Center II (beside POEA), Ortigas Avenue, Mandaluyong, and look for Judy Melitante. For additional information, please call 723-6928. All resumés must be in on or before April 20, Saturday. Interviews will be conducted from April 16-28.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
JOB MARKET

Career Fair 2001

It's where you'll find the BEST

The **INQUIRER**'s Job Market has again lived up to its mandate to bridge the gap between employer and job seekers. The Job Market Career Fair 2001 offers you the biggest opportunity to find a career. Come to the Glorietta Activity Center on April 23 to 25, 2001 and file applications with more than 200 leading corporations. Come to Job Market Career Fair 2001 – it's where the brightest people find the best jobs.

AYALA CENTER
VillMan
Pioneer

If you're interested to join "Job Market Career Fair 2001," kindly fill out this form and fax it any of the INQUIRER branch listed below.

☐ Yes, we would like to be a part of the "Job Market Career Fair 2001" on April 23 to 25, 2001 at the Glorietta Activity Center, Ayala, Makati City.
  ☐ Please call me
  ☐ Please send me more info

Client's Name: ____________________
Position: ____________________
Company: ____________________
Address: ____________________
Tel #: ____________________

MAKATI (MAIN):
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YAGUE & MASCARDO STS.
MAKATI CITY
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☎ 8972535 (Direct)
📠 897-4808

MAKATI BRANCH:
G/F ATRIUM OF MAKATI,
MAKATI CITY
☎ 811-4361, 811-4370,
📠 892-5578

QUEZON CITY:
ALI MALL ARCADE
GEN. ROMULO ST.
ARANETA CENTER
CUBAO, QUEZON CITY
☎ 912-9008 to 10
📠 912-9011

MANILA:
G/F TRINITY BLDG.
T.M. KALAW ST.
ERMITA, MANILA
☎ 527-3342, 528-0183,
528-0186
📠 528-0213

MANDALUYONG:
SM MEGAMALL, 5TH LEVEL
BUILDING B, EDSA
☎ 635-0219, 637-2008
📠 635-0220

GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE

SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE

April 15, 2001
Volume 14 No. 6

LYDIA DE VEGA-MERCADO

Moving On

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EXCELLENT PROJECT

I read with keen interest the ongoing work of Carol Atacador and the Center for Excellence (Sunday Inquirer Magazine, 19 March 2001). This is indeed a worthwhile project that should be supported by the government and private donations. The future of our country is at stake here; these young minds are the future leaders of our country. I hope someday this concept can be developed in other areas of the Philippines. My suggestion is that a foundation or an account can be established so that like-minded people from our country and abroad can send money to support this excellent project.
Mabuhay!

ELMAR MERCADER CAHAMBING
British Columbia, Canada
ELMCAHA@aol.com

UNIQUE STUDENTS

I read last Sunday's issue (18 March 2001) of the SIM where you featured different graduating students for this year like Marc Abaya and Ryan Agoncillo. However, what is true of these graduates is that they had better opportunities and were expected to succeed in their chosen careers.

In this regard, I would like to request the SIM to feature the other type of graduates, those whose successes are least expected. Those who, despite their being disabled, less privileged, marginalized or misjudged by society, have been able to become outstanding students.

Take for instance Roselle Ambubuyog, who happens to be blind. But despite her disability, she managed to graduate *summa cum laude* and class valedictorian at the Ateneo de Manila University. She has overcome the limitations set by being physically blind. Truly, she is a "power student."

I am also willing to share freely my experience as a young father/parent-student. Because of my early marriage, people said that I just threw away all the opportunities in life and would no longer succeed. However, despite the mistakes I made and the difficult situation I am in, I managed to graduate yesterday as class salutatorian with a *cum laude* from the Ateneo de Davao.

I am sure there are many more stories like Roselle's and mine in other schools. I hope that our stories will serve as motivation and inspiration to underachievers and other students who are in the same situation.

The problem is that students think that negative things are instant barriers to success, which is not true at all. I hope that our experiences will make them realize that one must not just accept one's situation, and do nothing to correct or conquer it.

Thank you very much for the time and effort. Best wishes to SIM. Godspeed!

RICHARD MITRA
Ateneo de Davao University
sun-god@angelfire.com

"BAYARAN"

Could you tell me the criteria or the basis for those candidates you have chosen to feature? There are lots of more deserving candidates but it seems you're playing favorites, and it seems your magazine is "*bayaran*" by these politicians. You just cannot accommodate all the candidates, so to be fair you have to print that these pages are just "political ads." Anyway, most readers know.

TESS TALLADA
tess_tall22@yahoo.com

(Please read the introduction to the weekly section on political candidates, which states that we randomly feature candidates as soon as they respond to our interview questions. We do not identify the pages as political ads because they aren't.)

Cover Story, page 8

The Cover Image After making it through personal trials, Lydia de Vega-Mercado looks forward to life anew with son Tutay and the rest of her family. *Photograph by Mandy Navasero*

Sunday Inquirer Magazine
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Features

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EXCELLENT PROJECT

I read with keen interest the ongoing work of Carol Atacador and the Center for Excellence (Sunday Inquirer Magazine, 19 March 2001). This is indeed a worthwhile project that should be supported by the government and private donations. The future of our country is at stake here; these young minds are the future leaders of our country. I hope someday this concept can be developed in other areas of the Philippines. My suggestion is that a foundation or an account can be established so that like-minded people from our country and abroad can send money to support this excellent project.
Mabuhay!

ELMAR MERCADER CAHAMBING
British Columbia, Canada
ELMCAHA@aol.com

UNIQUE STUDENTS

I read last Sunday's issue (18 March 2001) of the SIM where you featured different graduating students for this year like Marc Abaya and Ryan Agoncillo. However, what is true of these graduates is that they had better opportunities and were expected to succeed in their chosen careers.

In this regard, I would like to request the SIM to feature the other type of graduates, those whose successes are least expected. Those who, despite their being disabled, less privileged, marginalized or misjudged by society, have been able to become outstanding students.

Take for instance Roselle Ambubuyog, who happens to be blind. But despite her disability, she managed to graduate *summa cum laude* and class valedictorian at the Ateneo de Manila University. She has overcome the limitations set by being physically blind. Truly, she is a "power student."

I am also willing to share freely my experience as a young father/parent-student. Because of my early marriage, people said that I just threw away all the opportunities in life and would no longer succeed. However, despite the mistakes I made and the difficult situation I am in, I managed to graduate yesterday as class salutatorian with a *cum laude* from the Ateneo de Davao.

I am sure there are many more stories like Roselle's and mine in other schools. I hope that our stories will serve as motivation and inspiration to underachievers and other students who are in the same situation.

The problem is that students think that negative things are instant barriers to success, which is not true at all. I hope that our experiences will make them realize that one must not just accept one's situation, and do nothing to correct or conquer it.

Thank you very much for the time and effort. Best wishes to SIM. Godspeed!

RICHARD MITRA
Ateneo de Davao University
sun-god@angelfire.com

"BAYARAN"

Could you tell me the criteria or the basis for those candidates you have chosen to feature? There are lots of more deserving candidates but it seems you're playing favorites, and it seems your magazine is "*bayaran*" by these politicians. You just cannot accommodate all the candidates, so to be fair you have to print that these pages are just "political ads." Anyway, most readers know.

TESS TALLADA
tess_tall22@yahoo.com

(Please read the introduction to the weekly section on political candidates, which states that we randomly feature candidates as soon as they respond to our interview questions. We do not identify the pages as political ads because they aren't.)

Cover Story, page 8

The Cover Image After making it through personal trials, Lydia de Vega-Mercado looks forward to life anew with son Tutay and the rest of her family. *Photograph by Mandy Navasero*

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All in the Game

by Jay Rojas

photographs by Betoy Johnson

Taekwondo Olympian and action star Monsour del Rosario finds fulfillment in his latest role as martial arts instructor

Mentor Monsou

SURE HE KICKED BUTT AT THE 1988 SEOUL OLYMPICS, THE 14TH SOUTHEAST ASIAN GAMES, AND IN A DECADE'S WORTH OF ACTION MOVIES. BUT CAN MONSOUR DEL ROSARIO DELIVER KICK-ASS CLASSES AS HEAD INSTRUCTOR OF HIS OWN TAEKWONDO SCHOOL?

"I'm very aggressive and hands-on. I like to push my students to the limit, boost them up, get them really excited," says Monsour of his training style at the Olympians Taekwondo Training Center (OTTC). Launched late last year, the martial arts school is run by Monsour and fellow Olympian and instructor Stephen Fernandez.

Previous coaching experience explains why Monsour, 36, is equally at ease before wide-eyed pupils as he is when facing a medal-hungry opponent or adoring fans. The team captain of the 1988 Olympic Taekwondo Team and eight-time National Lightweight Champion once served as mentor to members of the National Team as well as students from La Salle and the Manila Polo Club and other taekwondo enthusiasts. "Even when I was active in the movies, I would still train people," says Monsour. "And every time I'd attend local competitions, I'd envy students who fought the way their coaches fought. Watching them made me wonder when I would have a student who'd move just like me, someone I could train to win competitions."

"Eventually, people go beyond the celebrity status to see that what I'm offering is something serious and substantial"

Monsour, who was himself trained by "Father of Philippine Taekwondo" Grand Master Sung Chon Hong, admits that he still has a lot to learn despite being a 4th don blackbelter who has undergone an instructor's seminar. "It's a big adjustment for me to be handling kids," he says of the 4- to 6-year-old tykes enrolled in his toddler taekwondo class. "You have to find a way to make the class enjoyable while trying to instill discipline. It's like being a second parent," he says. "Basically, I just let the children be because they still want to play. It takes some time for them to understand the system."

Oh, but they're getting there. A typical class has this coach subjecting kids half his size to a series of stretches, warm-ups, drills, and actual two-minute three-round fights. And students can't leave unless they accomplish two rituals the right way: bowing before their teacher and the Philippine and Korean flags. "Parents have come up to me to thank me for helping their children gain self-confidence," Monsour reports proudly. "One parent told me that his kid finally stood up to a bully in school."

Needless to say it'll take more than asking for an autograph to get on this teacher's good side. "I think Stephen's and my credentials as Olympians and national champions prove that we know our stuff," declares Monsour when asked about star-struck students who insist on training under him. "And eventually, people go beyond the celebrity status to see that what I'm offering is something serious and substantial."

The most valuable lesson he can impart to students today? The one taught to him by his "Miyagi," Sung Chon Hong. "When I was in the movies, Mr. Hong always reminded me never to use taekwondo to show off," says Monsour. "He said, 'If you can defend yourself or the people you love without having to raise your hands or feet, the better.' "

Stretching the limits: Young students go through the paces at OTTC

Kids' play: Finding ways to make classes fun while instilling discipline

---

The OTTC is at the Karrivin Plaza Bldg., 2316 Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati City, tel. 728-5133 or 812-6328.

In Memoriam

by Margarita De Pano

The executive director of the Jesuit Volunteers of the Philippines crammed every minute of her life with service to others, as if she knew that time was running out on her

Nanay Rosing's Offering

MOST PEOPLE WOULD GO TO GREAT LENGTHS TO LOOK AND FEEL YOUNGER THAN THEY ACTUALLY ARE. ROSEMARIE CABRERA DID THE EXACT OPPOSITE. DURING HER TWO-YEAR STINT AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE JESUIT VOLUNTEERS OF THE PHILIPPINES (JVP), ROSE ADDRESSED MOST OF HER SUBORDINATES AS *"ANAK"* (CHILD). NEVER MIND THAT QUITE A FEW OF THEM WERE ACTUALLY OLDER THAN HER 33 YEARS. *"NANAY* ROSING," AS PEOPLE AT JVP FONDLY CALLED HER, MADE UP FOR IN SERVICE WHAT SHE COULDN'T REPRESENT IN LOOKS OR AGE.

"Volunteers would call the house asking for '*Nanay*,'" says her mother, Fe Cabrera. "She would spend hours talking to them, listening to their problems." Rose dedicated years of her life to JVP, ministering to the needs of trainees, beneficiaries, alumni, and the people who made up the 22-year-old foundation's network. Most of all, she loved her volunteers.

Taking the road less travelled Rose loved much and served well to the very end

But early on the afternoon of February 28, Rose's beloved "children" lost her. She succumbed to myocardial infarction after battling with asthma for most of her life. Her heart was so exhausted it broke. Yet even Rose's death was steeped in service. She had been assisting as eucharistic minister at an Ash Wednesday Mass at the Ateneo College Quadrangle hours before she collapsed. It was her final offering to a community she had served for more than a decade.

Small and slender in stature, Rosemarie Molina Cabrera had been frail since birth. Nicknamed "Snow White" because of the extreme paleness of her skin, she had to be left in the care of a special nurse for months before she was allowed home. She had her first asthma attack in kindergarten, when a new neighbor put up a furniture shop that emitted varnish fumes. Despite occasional bouts with asthma, however, Rose maintained a happy childhood, playing with her nine siblings.

In senior high school, Rose attended a retreat at De La Salle Greenhills called Discovery Weekend. During those three days, she entered into a covenant with the Lord. She prayed that if God would decide to take either of her parents before her siblings could fend for themselves, then she would like to offer herself in their stead. Her father, Hermie, thought it such a selfless gesture. "I realized then that she was going to be a very different person," he says.

That Discovery Weekend was only the first among many retreats that Rose would attend. Yet she would only realize her vocation later, during her college years at the University of Santo Tomas. While attending Mass, the Economics major felt that she was being called to serve the Lord. At first, it seemed an outrageous possibility. In an article she wrote in 1996 titled "My Journey," Rose expressed her doubts about entering the convent. "*Ako pa, eh saksakan ako ng arte* (Why me when I'm so fussy)! Every day I would spend 30 minutes fixing my hair. I've mastered the art of riding the jeepney so as not to have the wind ruin my 'masterpiece.' I'm not particularly fond of eating fish or vegetables. So why call me?"

She continued to grapple with options. In 1989, Rose found her answer. Her brother's best friend, Martin, had just come back from Catarman, Samar as part of JVP's ninth batch of volunteers. She would notice a palpable change in him, a kind of happiness and fulfillment she too wanted to discover for herself. Months later, she decided to join JVP. Rose was assigned to Sta. Magdalena, Sorsogon, a coastal town 12 hours away from Manila. There she would teach catechism, live among farmers and organize out-of-school youths. It was a hard year for Rose. Sta. Magdalena was a town time and progress had left behind. Beya Marmol, a close friend, speaks of the letters that Rose sent her from Sorsogon. "She told me that it was difficult but that she was happy," she says. "There was no electricity and she worked all day, so she wrote at dawn using candles."

In 1990, Rose renewed her commitment to JVP and was sent to the diocese of Cabanatuan in Nueva Ecija, where she gave recollection talks to students of local Catholic schools. Later, she returned to Manila and resumed the city life, taking on a writer's job at the University of Asia and the Pacific. But she would become restless and long to go back. In 1995, Rose realigned herself with JVP, this time working at the Ateneo Central Office as Public Relations Officer and part of the Formation Staff. It was then that the name "*Nanay*" stuck. Pia Ortiz-Luis, JVP's Resource Development Officer, was part of the first batch of volunteers that trained under Rose. She says that her "*Nanay*" opened her heart and home to everyone, wrote them endless letters, and gave gifts on almost every occasion. "She was really like a mother," she recalls. "She would talk to us. And her letters would come in constantly. They'd be handwritten and heartfelt and long."

Rose was installed executive director of JVP in 1999, becoming the first non-Atenean to occupy the position. She took charge of the whole foundation, raised funds, organized seminars, and made sure that her volunteers remained motivated. Later, when the foundation's money got caught in a bank run, Rose would fight to keep JVP afloat. "I remember her saying that JVP would not die on her table," says Pia. "She tried her best to take care of us."

Always in the thick of things, Rose led JVP volunteers at Edsa 2 in January, just days after being hospitalized for severe asthma. Asthma had never been a hindrance to dispensing her duties. Despite her frail appearance, Rose was an active person. She worked nonstop, jogged, and spent her free time shopping for gifts and greeting cards to give away.

But she also dreamt of having her own family. Fr. Mike Veneracion, a priest Rose befriended during her years at Nueva Ecija, recalls that she sang when in love. But she was too busy to settle down. Yet as shown by the droves of people who came to her wake, Rose had more than enough children and loved ones to call her own. At the San Jose Seminary at the Ateneo campus, friends concelebrated Masses for her. People lined up to see her. Visitors filled up two guest books. Email poured in from abroad. "The place was packed to the rafters," says her father. "*Daig pa niya ang artista* (She was like a celebrity)."

At 33, Rosemarie Cabrera had touched more lives than older people can hope to in a lifetime. She had lived well and loved much, served and given up to the very end. Yet her contribution goes much further than the obvious. Hermie, her father, believes that Rose possessed a special gift. "She made every person feel like a best friend," he says. "She gave her all to each of her friendships, numerous as they were. Her service went beyond duty. It was very personal."

First Person

by Maria Anicia S. Manalang Sta. Ana

A Way with Words

If you want to move up, don't write that you once "filed papers." Instead, write that you "ensured the preservation of institutional memory by securing and systematizing the firm's documents"

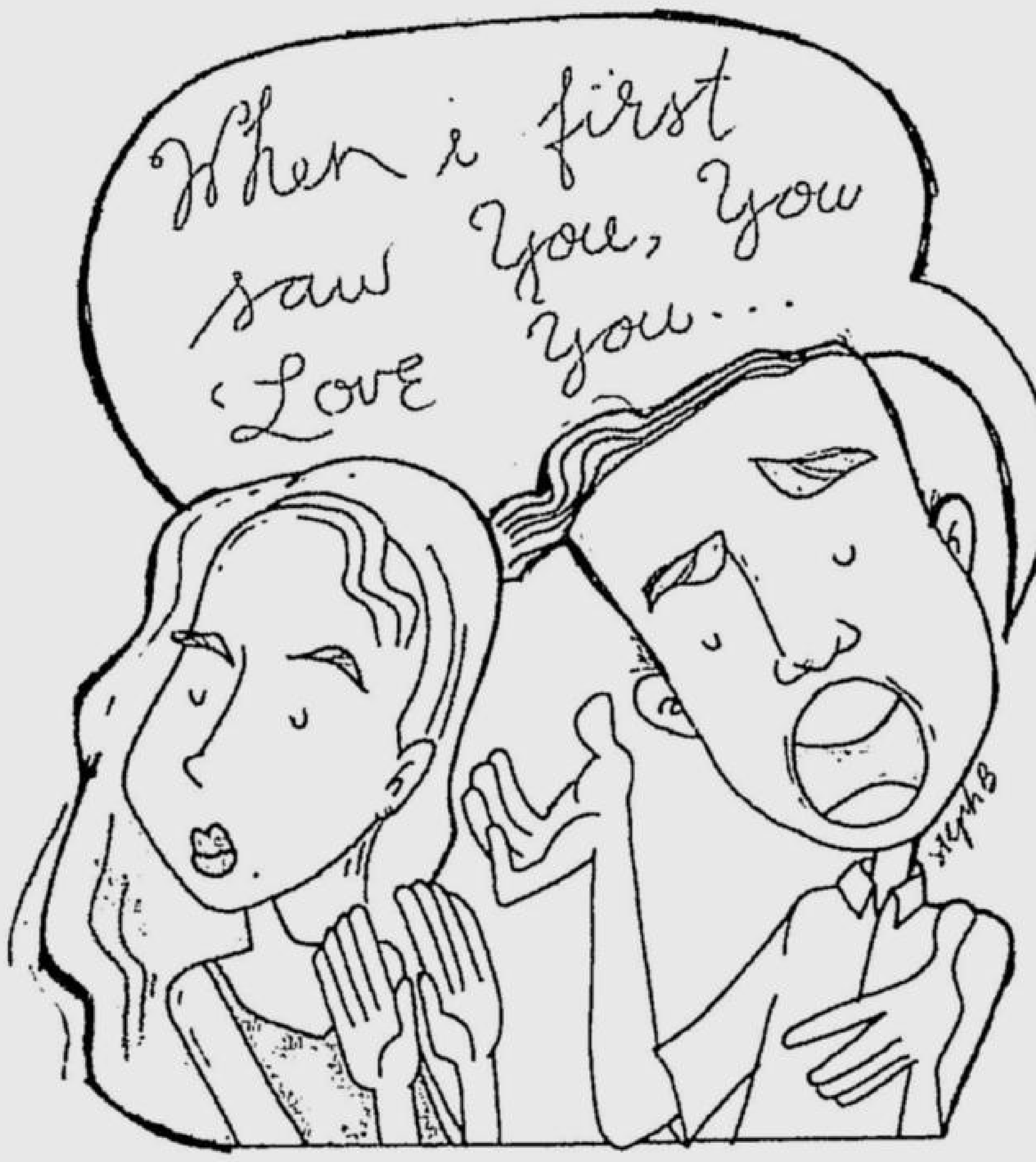
When i first saw you, you Love you...

Illustration by Steph Bravo

HAVE YOU EVER STOPPED TO THINK THAT YOUR VERY LIFE AND QUALITY OF LIFE LITERALLY REST ON WORDS? EACH OF US SUCCEEDS OR FAILS, MAKES OR BREAKS RELATIONSHIPS THROUGH THE WAY WE OR OTHERS AROUND US USE WORDS. INDEED, OUR VERY EXISTENCE (OR NON-EXISTENCE) DEPENDS ON THE WORDS THAT FILL UP A BIRTH CERTIFICATE.

How we fare in daily life, and in any endeavor at different stages in life, is determined to a large extent by the way we or other influential people in our orbit string words together into an integrated and meaningful whole that underlies our cultural codes and requirements.

When my brother was in grade school in 1959, some time during that school year's second semester, his teacher wrote something like this to my parents:

Dear Mr and Mrs Manalang:

Your son is having a difficult time learning to read and is behind his classmates in schoolwork. May we therefore set a meeting where we can discuss his case?

Yours truly,
Prof. Annette Belleza
(Grade Two teacher)

My father wrote back:

Dear Mrs. Belleza,

What a fine time to tell me. Besides, what are you there for?

Sincerely,
Ernesto T. Manalang

Mercifully, my older sister Ginny, who was about 17 then, had the sense not to give the teacher my father's letter. Since then my brother has, of course, learned to read . But just think of how he would have fared under that teacher had my sister given the letter. Worse, think of what it might have been like had he not learned to read.

In sophomore high school, I remember my crush Rey, a tall and handsome classmate who was a member of the basketball team. I was drawn to him even more because he seemed so unaware of his good looks and actually appears shy. Once, when he met his crush at a party, he said, "You know Pinky, when I first saw you, you love you." Tongue-tied, he didn't get the girl. But many years later, he joined the academe and is now the dean of the College of Agriculture at UP Los Baños. I suppose he eventually learned the right use of words to get him where he is now.

In writing your resume for job applications, you must choose the magic words to project the proper reaction in your would-be reader, presumably a firm's HRD staff. So if you want to move up, don't write that you once "filed papers." Instead, write that you "ensured the preservation of institutional memory by securing and systematizing the firm's documents." If you have an unexplained hiatus, perhaps because you went underground or were simply bumming around, make up for it by writing that you were a "freelance scriptwriter."

In college, two of my friends, Butch T and Butch L, applied for jobs as junior copywriters for an ad agency. They took tests to determine if they could write good copy to promote products. Butch L was asked to write copy to promote a memorial lot park. He wrote: "Everybody's dying to get there." Butch T, on the other hand, was asked to write copy for a nature resort. He wrote: " Ten years ago Pristine Resorts had clean blue waters and lush greenery. Today it's still the same." Guess who got the job.

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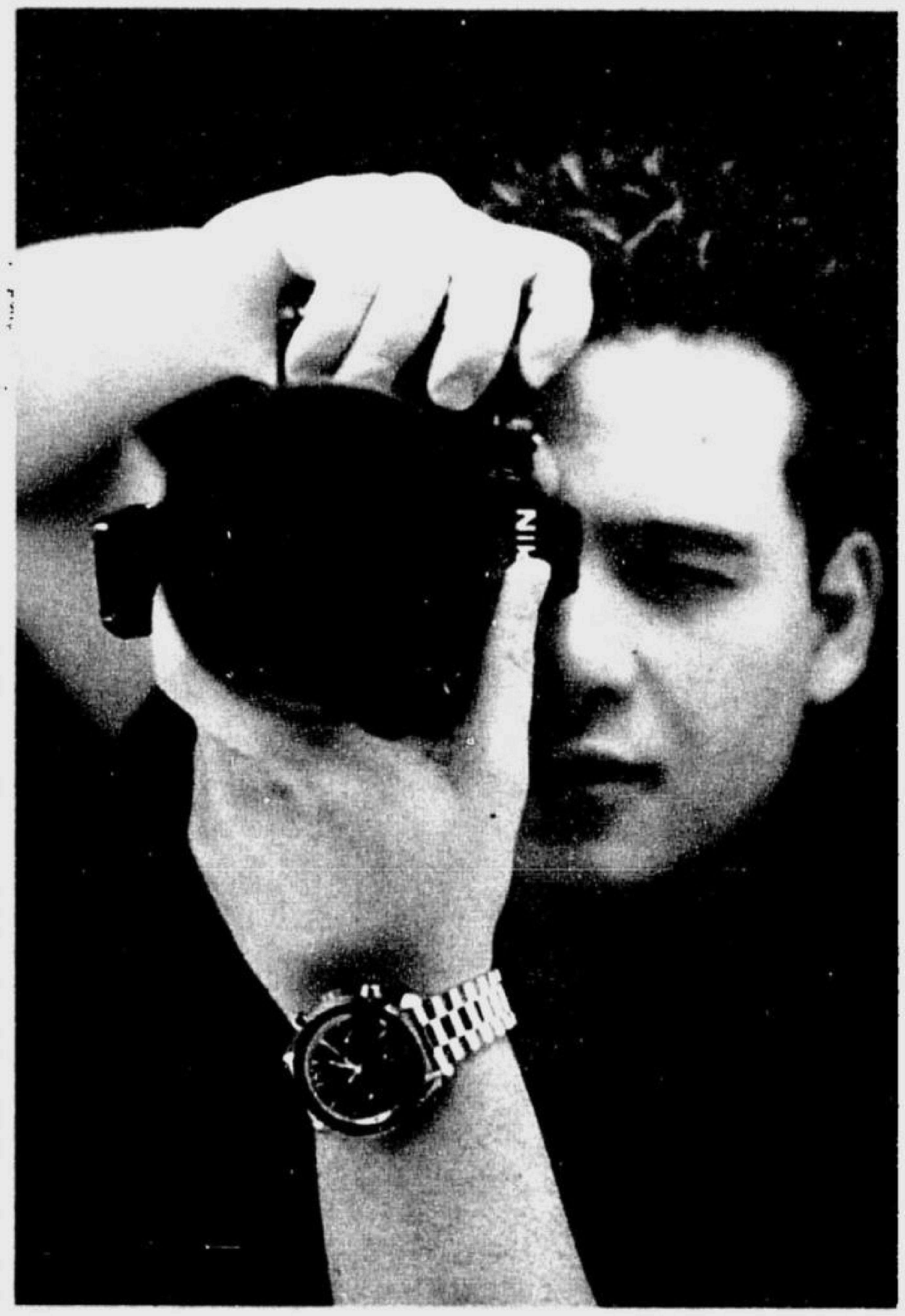
MEMBER [illegible] Truth in Advertising

His World

by Anton San Diego

RAYMOND Lauchengco



IT'S ONE of the hottest days in March, and it's only the beginning of the season. I arrive at our proposed meeting place shocked to see that my interviewee is already waiting for me. Raymond Lauchengco is a few pounds heavier than his "Bagets" days, yet still looking every inch the star. He greets me and smiles warmly. In the sweltering heat, he looks quite happy.

Raymond's foray in the entertainment world was purely accidental. His older sister, Menchu, who was in Repertory Philippines, signed him up for one of her auditions. That same day Bibot Amador was shouting at some people; Raymond got scared and couldn't back out, especially after he was chosen to be in the production. He was 12.

" I was really afraid that I was going to be yelled at, but along the way I learned to enjoy it."

Six years later he joined the movies and started what was to be a successful singing career. He was one of the first Viva Films stars when it was just starting. He was a contemporary of Sharon Cuneta, who was also then on her way to becoming the megastar that she is today. He went on to do several hit movies and songs, but something was not right.

"It's difficult to achieve success when you're young and you think your life will be that way forever. I had to ask myself if there was anything else I could do. I was not comfortable with the life I was leading. It was like a roller coaster, a great ride, but I guess I was tired and confused. I don't have major regrets leaving the business, but sometimes I wonder what it would have been like. I am thankful and grateful to the business for all the things I learned. I just wish that it had probably been slower. I love the singing and the acting, but the business of being a star is not for me."

Some people would give an arm and a leg to be in Raymond's shoes. Imagine reaching such heights, and yet not really wanting it. It had reached a point when what was being offered him wasn't what he wanted. It happened too fast, so there was hardly any time to smell the roses. He was ready for a new chapter in his life.

That chapter had to do with his love for photography. It began when he realized that he, "couldn't paint to save my life." His photo career, like his venture into theater, was also accidental "It was totally God-sent. At 35, I was thinking, 'What else can I do with my life?' – and here it is right up my alley." Once someone asked him to take publicity shots for a theater group, and they liked what they saw. He had been dabbling in photography merely as a hobby, and saw the opportunity to make it a career as well. He has been taking photographs for more than five years now, and had his first exhibit last year at the Shangri-la Makati.

Is he much happier now that he is not in front of the camera? "Yes, relieved. The pay is not like before but I am happy I have found what I like to do with my life."

> *"I am involved in the arts in a different way, behind the camera literally and figuratively. I have mellowed as a person, I am in a process of growing as a person and learning from life"*

Where is Raymond in his life now? "I am involved in the arts in a different way, behind the camera literally and figuratively. I have mellowed as a person, I am in a process of growing as a person and learning from life."

This is His World.

Morning ritual?

As soon as I get up I check my garden. I have a pocket garden connected to my room; I like to see if anything new has grown. I have a little pond with goldfish, and I feed my fish. Then I call my girlfriend and do my devotionals.

What will you never do?

Go back to dance class

With his father Ramon Lauchengco at his first photo exhibit.

A scene from his favorite play, "The Fantasticks"

One of his earliest shots, taken while still a student at UP

What are you reading now?

"Reaching for an Invisible God" by Philip Yancey

Favorite place to read?

My La-Z-Boy or my garden

Favorite photographers?

Raymund Isaac, Jun de Leon, Denise Weldon and Jun Ablan

Greatest extravagance?

My lights. I love lighting fixtures. I have them in all shapes and sizes, in all forms. My favorite is the miniature ellipsoidal spotlight. It's a smaller version of what you see in an opera house or concert hall.

Define happiness.

Doing what I love to do and being with the people I love.

First ambition when you were young?

I wanted to be the first Filipino pope because I was scared of going to hell.

Favorite memory as a child?

Christmas morning when I was about nine years old and I got my first building set. It was an Italian version of the American Erector set, and you could build all sorts of mechanical things with it.

Best thing your parents ever taught you?

To always do my best. To never "wing it" and always do more than what was expected. My father was an educator and I always admired his integrity. In my mom I saw real strength of character, perseverance and a very strong sense of artistry.

Greatest fears?

Not measuring up, not making the grade.

Define success.

Doing something you love, and doing it with integrity, dignity, and honesty.

If you could go back in time 10 years, what would you advise yourself to do or not to do?

It's tricky answering this, because all the mistakes I made were such valuable learning experiences for me. If I never made those mistakes, I wouldn't know much, would I?

What are the weaknesses that you fall prey to?

I can be very impatient, thoughtless and impulsive.

Who would you have liked to be?

I'm quite content being myself, although I wouldn't mind being a prince for a few days, just to see what that's like.

To page 15

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With his father Ramon Lauchengco at his first photo exhibit

A scene from his favorite play, "The Fantasticks"

One of his earliest shots, taken while still a student of

"Reaching for an Invisible God" by Philip Yancey

My La-Z-Boy or my garden

Raymund Isaac, Jun de Leon, Denise Weldon and Jun Ablan

My lights. I love lighting fixtures. I have them in all shapes and sizes, in all forms. My favorite is the miniature ellipsoidal spotlight. It's a smaller version of what you see in an opera house or concert hall.

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Not measuring up, not making the grade.

Doing something you love, and doing it with integrity, dignity, and honesty.

do?

It's tricky answering this, because all the mistakes I made were such valuable learning experiences for me. If I never made those mistakes, I wouldn't know much, would I?

I can be very impatient, thoughtless and impulsive.

I'm quite content being myself, although I wouldn't mind being a prince for a few days, just to see what that's like.

To page 15

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Address__________

__________Zip Code/_/_/_/_/ Tel.:__________

Occupation__________ Signature__________

I promise to send in writing all the miraculous events that may occur while in possession of these pastilles.

• SIQ150401-PDL •

[illegible]

[illegible]

After the Storm

"I SAW HIS FINGER TWITCHING," SAYS LYDIA DE VEGA-MERCADO. "THEN I KNEW HE WAS NOT WITH US ANYMORE." HER MIND IN TURMOIL AND HER HEART BURSTING WITH GRIEF, LYDIA CALLED HER HUSBAND, ENGR. PAOLO MERCADO, AT HIS MERALCO OFFICE IN TUTUBAN, DIVISORIA. "I TOLD HIM THERE HAD BEEN AN ACCIDENT. THAT UTOY WAS HIT BY A JEEPNEY. *PUMUTOK ANG ULO*. (HE CRACKED HIS SKULL)." SHE ALSO CALLED HER PARENTS IN MEYCAUAYAN, PAOLO'S KIN IN ZAMBALES AND HER FRIENDS FROM MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER.

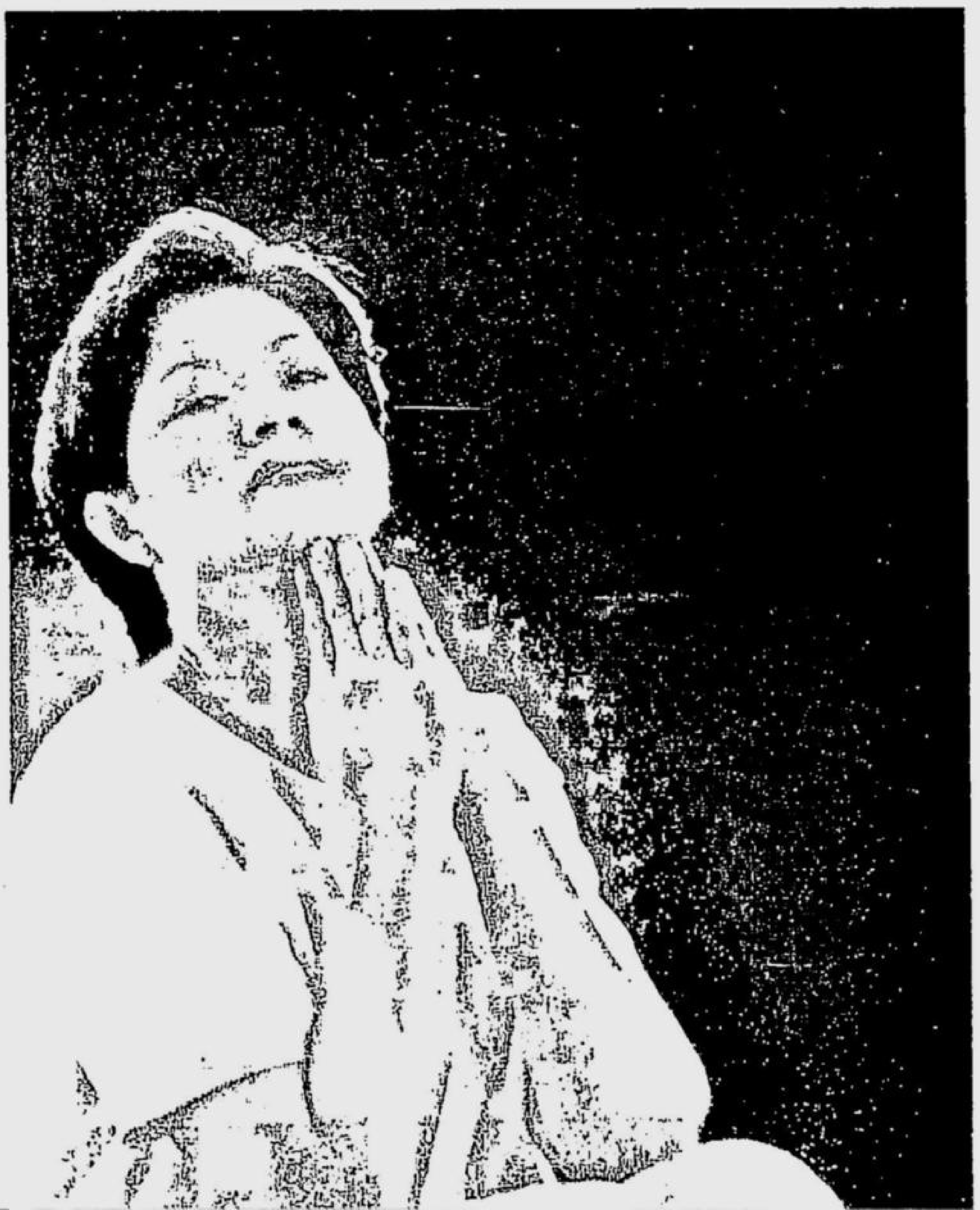
She remembers hazy faces and incoherent voices, then found herself praying like she had never prayed before. "I thanked the Lord for giving me John Michael. I told Him that I know I don't have the power to keep him forever. Still, I said thanks to the Lord for everything. And then I said, Lord, wherever John Michael is, take him with You."

"*Gumaan ang loob ko* (I felt better)," Lydia says. "I felt a certain strength inside me." It was the strength she needed to comfort Paolo, who must have flown from Tutuban, Divisoria, because he was in Project 4 in about 30 minutes.

"Somehow Paolo knew Utoy was already dead," Lydia continues. "He got off somewhere and was walking towards our house. Then he started screaming, *nagwala na, naglupasay siya*." Sympathetic neighbors rushed to hold Paolo, only to tear off his polo shirt. Paolo was inconsolable.

John Michael "Utoy" de Vega-Mercado would have turned 5 years old on October 31. On February 13, 2001, Utoy was hit by an overspeeding jeepney along Onrubia St. in Project 4, Quezon City. He was declared dead on arrival at a nearby hospital.

Things happened very fast. One moment mother and son were in the driveway. Then Lydia went inside the house to check on her *nilagang mais*. She heard a loud thud, then people screaming. She rushed out, found the gate open. Utoy had slipped out of the gate just as an errant vehicle rushed by.



"The driver just ignored the humps," Lydia says wistfully. She takes a deep sigh. "But we have forgiven him. We have accepted this as God's will." In fact, Lydia and Paolo have decided not to file charges against the driver. "Nobody wanted this to happen. We don't hate the driver. *Pag may* hatred, *parang gusto mong gumanti palagi* (It's like you always want revenge). But if you forgive, the pain is gone.

"If there is pain, it's the pain that comes when you are missing someone," Lydia continues. "We miss Utoy. We miss his *patakbo-takbo*, his *kalikutan*, his *gulo*.... (his running around, his friskiness).

"Some people told us *may batas kaya dapat daw may mananagot* (there is a law so someone should be answerable). Our lawyer also said the driver should be charged if only to teach him a lesson and warn others to be responsible drivers. But we think, what for? *Ano man ang naging kasalanan niya sa anak namin, sa amin na lang yon* (Whatever his sin, let it stay between us)."

"If you forgive, the pain is gone," says Lydia of the errant driver who caused her son's death

It was exactly one month and a day since Utoy passed away when Lydia agreed to talk about the incident. The interview was initially scheduled on March 13, but Paolo declined. "*May phobia na kami sa numerong yan*," he says. The appointment was reset for the next day.

Framed photos, posters and news clippings of Lydia de Vega adorn practically every inch of the wall of the Mercado living room. A collection of medals, trophies, plaques, photo albums and book-bound news clipping are kept in a glass-paneled cabinet. Lydia says her husband is an ardent collector of "anything about Lydia." "He is my number one fan," Lydia enthuses.

She was training daily at the Jose Rizal Memorial Stadium in Malate, and Paolo would be there, along with scores of professional bachelors – lawyers, doctors, engineers, accountants, etc. – who adored her from a distance. In the late '70s and early '80s, Lydia de Vega, the gazelle from Bgy. Calvario, Meycauayan, Bulacan, was the star of Philippine sports. She was the fastest runner hereabouts.

Long-legged Lydia also had a very stern father/manager/trainor who watched her with the vigilance of a Gestapo officer. "I didn't have a normal teenage life," she recalls. "I had to practice four hours daily. It was practice, school, practice. No *barkada*, no going out on weekends." Still she managed to have three boyfriends. "Tatang didn't like any one of them," she laughs. "Any man for that matter, *hindi pwede*."

Paolo was at the stadium with such clockwork precision that the other athletes started to notice him. "They were teasing me, *oy nandiyan na naman yung* admirer *mo*. But he wasn't courting me. *Nanonood lang siya*. If he could say hi or hello to me, solved *na siya*. He just talked to my mother and my cousin most of the time."

In 1982, Lydia won her first gold medal during the Asian Games in New Delhi, where she set the record of 11.28 seconds for the 100-meter dash. The media dubbed her Asia's Queen of Sprint. The Philippine National Anthem was played during the awarding ceremonies. Lydia's heart swelled with pride, and Tatang beamed.

"I needed Tatang more than he needed me. Without him, I wouldn't be Lydia de Vega," she says. "He disciplined me not only in sports but in so many ways. He taught me that life is discipline. He made it very clear to me that I was not just there to run but also to bring honor to my country."

Lydia says it was her father who first noticed the power and speed of her long legs. "It's a gift, it is inborn but it can be improved through training," she says. Sprint requires power and speed, while running demands endurance and stamina. Tatang zealously guarded Lydia's career because he knew he had a gem. In 1984, Lydia left for further training in the US. She also enrolled at Mt. San Antonio College in Los Angeles, California.

Paolo courted her just before she left. "*Binasted ko. Ang tanda-tanda na niya*," she laughs. She was 18, he was 29. Paolo refused to give up. He pursued her with a long-distance courtship. "He sent letters. He

Not one less: "Utoy is still with us," says Lydia, with husband Paolo, daughter Stephanie and son Tutay

called me regularly. And when I came home for a vacation, he was there in Meycauayan everyday. At first it was irritating. *Pero seryoso talaga. Di siya marunong mambola. Tahimik siya. Matiyaga siya*, over, super *tiyaga* (He was really serious. He didn't know how to pull my leg. He was quiet, diligent)."

Lydia was in the US when the first People Power Revolution took place. "He sent me news clippings. He wrote me long letters to tell me what happened. He called me overseas." Lydia says she started to appreciate Paolo's efforts then.

She came home after graduation in 1987. Paolo was waiting for her, of course. Lydia started seeing him from a different perspective. "He was not like my other suitors. Paolo was very clear about what he wanted for me. He said he wanted whatever my parents wanted. But Tatang wouldn't hear of it. He was concerned about my career."

On two occasions, Paolo went to Meycauayan for the traditional *pamamanhikan*. But the old man took a hard line stance. Paolo and Lydia had no choice but to elope. They stayed in a pension house for a week. So a wedding was set. But after the wedding, Tatang was still angry. "We visited him every weekend in Meycauayan, *dedma lang siya*. So we stopped visiting him. Then *pinatawag kami*, so *ayos na*."

As agreed, Lydia continued with her career. But Paolo wouldn't watch her anymore. "*Ninerbiyos daw siya*," she chortles.

Their first child, Stephanie, was born in 1989. In a year's time, Lydia went back to the tracks to keep herself in tip-top shape. Paolo had kept his promise to Tatang. At home, he made sure Lydia wasn't bothered with domestic duties. He handled their finances. He got her a *yaya* and an all-around helper. He also bought gym equipment so she could exercise at home.

Lydia attempted a comeback in the early '90s. But childbirth and motherhood must have affected her speed. She was not as limber anymore. Paolo urged her to go back to school, which she did. In 1996, Lydia finished her BS in Physical Education from the Far Eastern University. She also gave birth to John Michael in October of the same year.

With two kids now, Lydia became a full-time, stay-at-home wife. She learned cross-stitching, and went ballroom dancing to while away her time. She cooks only when she's in the mood. But she is an efficient housekeeper. "I climb rooftops if necessary. I can be a plumber, carpenter, electrician. Paolo is an electrical engineer but we noticed that when an appliance breaks down, I'm the one who fixes it."

She praises Paolo for being such a responsible man. "Cool *siya*. Workaholic. He believes in clean living. He is sports-minded but not athletic."

Paolo also bought pre-paid educational plans for the children. He also made sure Lydia finished a college degree. "He said other athletes ended up with nothing because they didn't finish their studies," she explains. "*Ganyan siya*. He takes care of everything. I'm very lucky *talaga*."

In May 1999, Lydia gave birth to their third child, Jonathan, whom she calls Tutay. She had worked the year before that as coach. After Tutay's birth, Lydia enrolled for a master's degree in Physical Education at the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila.

The blissful Mercado household had its first crisis in October last year. Tutay, who had been nursing a fever for days, was diagnosed with broncho pneumonia. He was given medication but the fever persisted. The doctors were perplexed to find abscess formation in the appendix. It turned out Tutay's appendix had ruptured.

"I was losing weight, I couldn't eat. Tutay was only 17 months old," Lydia says. But the pain and fever persisted. A scan showed abscess formation in the liver, kidneys and stomach. The toxin had spread to the other organs. Tutay was operated on again. And for some hours, he was in the ICU with a 50-50 chance of survival.

"I cried, I prayed, I asked the doctors why, but they could not explain. I suspect it was because he was not a full-term baby. Eight months *lang siya* when he was born." The Mercados brought Tutay home and braced for the worst. The abscess formation was a result of the ruptured appendix.

Tutay's brief hospitalization was a test of Lydia's and Paolo's strength of will and faith. They joined a Marriage Encounter seminar in Tagaytay City "to strengthen the marriage," she says. Then they also joined the Christian Life Seminar. "I think the Lord prepared us. We got to know the Lord, so it was easier to accept that life is just ours on loan," she says.

"Before, we seldom went to church, we seldom prayed. Now, I can't sleep without praying. I read the Bible every morning, every night. I also read the Daily Bread to guide me," Lydia says.

Sometimes, Lydia says she can feel the presence of Utoy in the house. "We feel he is still here, playing with Tutay. Physically *lang, wala siya*," she says.

On March 13, the first month of Utoy's death, Lydia found Tutay restless and agitated. "He woke up and just cried. He wanted to go out and play. Nobody could pacify him. He was agitated."

Lydia considers Utoy their family's guardian angel. "Whatever we do, we call him for help. I know he is watching us. He is just around." Also, she has her other children to care for. Stephanie, for instance, is a coltish 11-year-old who stands 5 feet 4. She is in Grade 6 at St. Bridget's in Cubao, wears size 7 shoes and is just two inches short of her mother's height.

"I encourage her to explore," says Lydia. The teener, however, is apparently not inclined to track and field. She is a member of St. Bridget's volleyball team. She also gets to wear Lydia's old jerseys.

For the pictorial, Lydia wore her 1983 Asian Games jersey. It still fits her to a T. She says she has not jogged or run for some time. Still, there are no flabs in her abs. But yes, she is running again.

Lydia is running for the position of councilor in Meycauayan. She decided to run after her relatives and the mayor himself convinced her. To prepare herself for her new career, Lydia attended workshops on government and politics. She has also immersed herself in civic action duties, like attending weddings, baptisms and wakes.

Paolo has given her his full support. "She has the name and she wants to serve the people. She will make a good councilor," he says. Also, he adds as an afterthought, "it will keep her busy."

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AMOUNT OF BENEFITS

The amount of benefits will be doubled in case of death due to accident before the age of 80.

Age	2 units	4 units	6 units	8 units	10 units	20 units
50	₱100,000	200,000	300,000	400,000	500,000	1,000,000
51	95,560	191,120	286,680	382,240	477,800	955,600
52	91,320	182,640	273,960	365,280	456,600	913,200
53	87,240	174,480	261,720	348,960	436,200	872,400
54	80,440	160,880	241,320	321,760	402,200	804,400
55	76,560	153,120	229,680	306,240	382,800	765,600
56	72,600	145,200	217,800	290,400	363,000	726,000
57	68,600	137,200	205,800	274,400	343,000	686,000
58	64,720	129,440	194,160	258,880	323,600	647,200
59	61,000	122,000	183,000	244,000	305,000	610,000
60	57,360	114,720	172,080	229,440	286,800	573,600
61	53,880	107,760	161,640	215,520	269,400	538,800
62	50,600	101,200	151,800	202,400	253,000	506,000
63	47,520	95,040	142,560	190,080	237,600	475,200
64	44,360	88,720	133,080	177,440	221,800	443,600
65	41,640	83,280	124,920	166,560	208,200	416,400
66	39,080	78,160	117,240	156,320	195,400	390,800
67	36,720	73,440	110,160	146,880	183,600	367,200
68	34,480	68,960	103,440	137,920	172,400	344,800
69	32,400	64,800	97,200	129,600	162,000	324,000
70	30,480	60,960	91,440	121,920	152,400	304,800

ADDITIONAL CASH INCOME IN THE FORM OF DIVIDENDS*

e.g. for 20 units of Coverage	End of Year	
Age	10th yr.	15th yr.
50	₱228,219	₱541,000
51	229,373	541,788
52	230,116	542,126
53	231,291	542,454
54	226,310	528,177
55	227,163	527,617
56	227,474	525,349
57	227,167	521,350
58	226,705	516,649
59	226,053	511,064
60	224,648	503,358
61	222,970	494,782
62	220,738	485,064
63	218,275	474,829
64	214,095	461,485
65	210,437	449,730
66	202,693	429,717
67	135,743	291,822
68	129,158	275,187
69	122,507	258,336
70	115,692	240,956

AMOUNT OF PREMIUMS

Pay monthly	₱ 272.95	543.95	814.95	1,086.95	1,358.95	2,717.95
Pay quarterly	802.45	1,599.20	2,395.95	3,195.60	3,995.30	7,990.75
Pay semi-annually	1,555.80	3,100.50	4,645.20	6,195.60	7,746.00	15,492.30
Pay annually & save 10%	2,947.85	5,874.65	8,801.45	11,739.05	14,676.65	29,353.85

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   Address: ______________________
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   Tel. No.: __________ **Fax No.:** __________
   Occupation: __________ ☐ **Male** ☐ **Female**
   SSS/GSIS: __________ **TIN:** __________
   Date of Birth: (mo/day/yr)__________ **Age:** ______
2. **I wish to have** (amount of coverage depends on the number of units and age at effectivity of policy)
   ☐ 2 units ☐ 4 units ☐ 6 units ☐ 8 units ☐ 10 units
   ☐ 12 units ☐ 14 units ☐ 16 units ☐ 18 units ☐ 20 units
3. **I wish to pay my premiums:**
   ☐ Annually ☐ Semi-Annually ☐ Quarterly ☐ Monthly
4. **In case of premium default:** I elect
   (Check one box only)
   ☐ Automatic Payment of Premium Option
   ☐ Extended Term Insurance Option
   In the absence of such election and should the premium due continue to be in default until the end of the grace period provided in the policy, this policy shall automatically continue in force as non-participating extended term insurance.
5. **I wish that the dividends apportioned to the policy, if any, be:**
   (Check one box only)
   ☐ A. Used to reduce premium
   ☐ B. Left to earn interest
   ☐ C. Paid in cash if dividend or accumulated dividend is at least P200.00; if not, left on deposit to earn interest; if no election is made, option B shall apply.
6. **Beneficiary:** ______________________
   Relationship to the applicant: __________
7. **Signature of applicant:**
   ____
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Z12 01D3I

Saying It Like It Is

Broadcasters promise transparency and a loud voice to help the needy

THEY make a living of hitting the incompetent and speaking up for the oppressed, so why not make the job official? That's what veteran radio broadcaster Raffy Molino and fellow party list candidates from Aarangkada ang mga Handa Oras-Oras para sa Bayan (AHOY), namely accountant Hazel Pacurib, media man Monching Montero, lawyer and media man Alberto Hidalgo and IT specialist Norberto Villaluna, are asking. AHOY started as an informal group of public service announcers from major networks. Inspired by the success of the party list elections of 1998, they were formally organized recently. Molino himself is marking his 18th year in the field, having started in the early '80s as a volunteer reporter for the old Radio Veritas. He now broadcasts on DZRH. "The Philippines is still a radio country," says this journalism graduate and father of five on why broadcasters can serve as good representatives of the people.

What is AHOY's campaign platform?
The platform is anchored on public service and charity because this is what we've been doing all along.

What can AHOY and broadcasters bring to public office?
We want to institutionalize charity and public service in all government agencies. People come to Manila asking for help and following up their papers, but they cannot even get into these offices because of red tape. We only have so many agencies helping the poor. Every government agency must allocate something for public service, even if it just means free xerox copies. Then we can course these requests for help through radio and TV stations, so there is transparency. As broadcasters, we're used to helping out people; that's part of our job. We've seen how bad things can get because of corruption, so I think we can handle the temptation to dip into government funds.

How would you define leadership?
For us, leadership simply means shortening the long lines of people queuing up for help. If you can't help people, you're an ineffective leader. That's the barometer; if less people are asking for help, that means something is happening and you're doing your job.

What past experiences have shaped you?
Basically my involvement in campus politics at the Lyceum of the Philippines, where I took up journalism and was news editor of the campus paper. I was involved in student activities during the Marcos era. The sight of the poor and helpless really moved me.

ABH

Molino: From public trust to public office

Dennis Sabangan

Voter's Voice
ELEKSYON 2001
GMA

It's Your Choice

Editor's note: The ***Sunday Inquirer Magazine*** *continues its contribution to the Philippine Daily Inquirer's "Voter's Voice: Eleksyon 2001" coverage with a series of short profiles of candidates. Each issue, the magazine will feature some senatorial candidates, either party-affiliated or independent, to help voters get to know the people running for national positions. We will also speak to some party list representatives and, as a reminder that this election will have repercussions in our very own backyards, a few unique stories of local government candidates from small communities all over the country. We will feature the interviews as they come; thus, the candidates will be profiled in no particular order. We are proud to be carrying out this project in cooperation with GMA-7. Watch out for more profiles of the senatorial candidates every evening on GMA's news programs "Saksi" and "Front Page."*

FRANKLIN M. **DRILON**

Independent-People Power Coalition

His first stint in government service was in 1986 as deputy minister of labor. After a few months, then President Corazon Aquino successively appointed him labor secretary, justice secretary and executive secretary. Reappointed justice secretary under the Ramos administration in 1992. Drilon won a Senate seat in 1995 and again in 1998. He was Senate president when he was maneuvered out of his post during the explosive Estrada impeachment trial. After voting to open the infamous second envelope, he was among the political leaders who took to the streets in the demonstrations that led to the ouster of then President Estrada.

Who has been the most influential person in your life and what did you learn from this person?
My father, the late Cesar M. Drilon. I learned the value of honesty in public service from him.

What experiences shaped who you are?
My stint as a member of the Aquino and Ramos Cabinets (executive secretary, labor secretary and justice secretary).

What is the most important decision you ever made?
When I decided to leave LAMP last Nov. 3, knowing that I will lose the Senate presidency.

Tell me a time when you voted your conscience in the face of strong public opposition.
When I favored and worked for the ratification of the RP-US Treaty for the retention of the US military bases.

What have you done in your public life that you are proudest of?
As justice secretary, I directed the successful prosecution and conviction of Calauan, Laguna Mayor Antonio Sanchez (for the rape and murder of UP students Aileen Sarmenta and Alan Gomez) and Claudio Teehankee Jr. (for the murder of Maureen Hultman).

When you think of leadership, what words and images come to mind?
Honesty. Sincerity.

Stella O. Gonzales

MA. ANA CONSUELO "JAMBY" A. **MADRIGAL**

LDP-Puwersa ng Masa

She belongs to a distinguished clan: former Sen. Vicente Madrigal and former Chief Justice Jose Abad Santos were her grandparents and former Sen. Pacita Madrigal-Gonzales was an aunt. She was involved in her family's shipping, real estate and cement businesses and was also part of several philanthropic concerns. She is the former host of a youth-oriented TV show and also a leader in several organizations for the welfare of children, such as the Books for Barangay Foundation and the Able Foundation. She considers herself a "child advocate" and was appointed by then President Estrada in 1999 as Presidential Adviser for Children's Affairs.

Who has been the most important person in your life and what did you learn from him?
My maternal grandfather Chief Justice Jose Abad Santos. He serves as my inspiration in public service. He chose to give up his life rather than compromise his principles. Thus, he was executed by a Japanese firing squad in 1942. His parting words to his son, my uncle Pepito, were: "Do not weep, for it is a rare opportunity to be given a chance to die for our country."

If you could go back and undo one decision in your public life, what would it be and why?
Nothing. Every decision, every experience contributed to my growth as a person and as a public servant.

Tell us a time when you followed your conscience in the face of strong public opposition.
During the height of the crisis that beset the Estrada administration, people were persuading me to resign. It was political suicide to stick it out with Malacañang, they said. However, I did not leave my post, strongly convinced that services for children should not be affected by politics.

What have you done that you are proudest of in your public life or political career?
Bringing government closer to children. My appointment as presidential adviser for children's affairs was a first in the Philippine presidency. I served as the direct link between this nation's children, who number over 33 million, and the highest office in the land.

When you think about leadership, what words and images come to mind?
Vision. Integrity. Sacrifice.

Stella O. Gonzales

PERFECTO "JUN" R. **YASAY, JR.**

Independent

One of the government officials who faced off with former President Estrada, Yasay served as Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) chair before he resigned prior to the impeachment trial. He holds a law degree from UP Diliman and has participated in many international business conferences. In its July 3, 2000 issue, BusinessWeek named him one of "The Stars of Asia," the only Filipino among 50 Asian leaders who are "in the forefront of change."

What is the central theme of your campaign?
Change. Everywhere I go, I convey the message of change. That the essence of People Power II is not merely that we change the faces of those who ran government. For meaningful change to come about, we must also effect change in our mindsets, values, hearts.

When you think about leadership, what words and images come to mind?
It's living by example. It's being able to do what you preach. It's being a model for your peers and for those who look up to you. I think that's what leadership is all about.

What's the most important decision you ever made? And what happened?
To resign as chair of SEC. Even as I initially stood pat on my belief that the President could not force me to resign because I had a fixed term, I had to balance this with what I believed in even in my private life. Even if I had the legal right to stay in office, if for any reason I was no longer effective in office, because of what the President did to me, which was to use the awesome power of his office to prevent me from doing my job, I should resign. That was important. Unwittingly, I was showing the President the option to take when he lost his moral ascendancy to govern. But apparently, he just didn't get it.

What are your religious convictions?
I firmly believe that as Christians, we should be faithful to our mission of serving best the least of our brethren. I think the center of one's Christian faith is love. On the basis of this love, you really show love by doing service to the least of your brothers.

What are your priorities in the first 100 days?

Restore the faith of the people in government.

Name one original idea you'd bring to the office.
I don't know if it's original, but I'd like to be transparent in all my dealings. It's an idea that's not always understood. Even in the deliberations in congress of certain laws, we are not transparent at all.

Nini Valera

Ready, Willing and Able

Given the chance and a voice in Congress, the country's disabled can become productive citizens, says party list contender AKAP

SOME 10 percent of the country's population belong to the disabled, yet they have no representation at all in Congress, rues party list nominee Mike Barredo of the Alyansa ng may Kapansanan sa Pilipinas (AKAP). The group is composed of organizations for people with disabilities (PWDs), including the blind, the deaf, the physically handicapped and the mentally challenged, and works with non-government agencies to provide services for the disabled and other welfare-oriented groups.

In one or two sentences, can you tell us your party's platform or legislative agenda?
As the national sectoral party for the disabled, AKAP aims to fully integrate PWDs into mainstream society and afford them with rehabilitation and equal opportunities for self-reliance and development. It also strives to prevent disabilities among Filipinos.

Who are your nominees and can you tell us about each of them?
Akap has chosen several outstanding differently-abled Filipinos to represent the needs of their fellow PWDs. There's Capt. Oscar Taleon PN (ret.), the founding chair and president of the Philippine Blind Union, chair of the Kapisanan ng mga Sundalong Maykapansanan sa Pilipinas Inc. (KSKPI), and the first blind man to become a Rotary Club president. Another nominee is Michael Barredo, who lost his eyesight in 1979 and has since then garnered numerous prestigious awards for community development and service including the Apolinario Mabini Award for outstanding disabled in the field of business and the Ten Outstanding Young Men Award for Humanitarian Service. Barredo, a businessman, was also founding president of the Philippine Sports Association of the Differently Abled and was involved in drafting landmark legislation for PWDs.

AKAP
FOR PARTY LIST

Roger Carpio

Sharing a vision. AKAP nominees Taleon, Gregorio and Barredo

The third nominee is Deanna Gregorio, the founding president of the Multiple Sclerosis Society and president of KAMPI (or Kapisanan ng Maykapansanan sa Pilipinas Inc.) in the National Capital Region. An outstanding member of the UP Sigma Delta Phi Sorority, she continues to lead the cause of disabled Filipino women here and abroad.

What drives and motivates you?
Says Taleon, AKAP's frontrunner: "The values set upon me by my parents, the training and esprit de corps imbued in me by the Philippine Military Academy, the principles of integrity, courage, and loyalty that I have maintained even as a young man, and the desire for fulfillment I derive from serving the disabled."

When you think of leadership, what words and images come to mind?
Barredo: In this day and age, leadership should be values-based, vision-driven, and inspirational, something that Filipinos in general need in their elected representatives.

What experiences shaped who you are?
Says Barredo: "I never really lost my sight, because I gained a vision."

Pennie Azarcon-Dela Cruz

The Artist Abroad

by Luis H. Francia

Canned or Fresh?

Jessica Hagedorn's play "Dogeaters" renders accurately and savagely the insidiousness of a feudalistic Catholic society and the extent to which mindless American pop culture has taken root

JESSICA HAGEDORN'S PLAY "DOGEATERS," BASED ON HER NOVEL OF THE SAME NAME, PLAYED RECENTLY TO FULL HOUSES DURING ITS EXTENDED RUN AT THE PUBLIC THEATER IN DOWNTOWN MANHATTAN. JUST THE FACT OF HAVING HER WORK STAGED AT THE PUBLIC—A RESPECTED, INDEPENDENT OFF-BROADWAY VENUE REGULARLY REVIEWED BY MAINSTREAM MEDIA—MEANS THE DOOR FOR OTHER FILIPINO THEATRICAL VENTURES HAS OPENED UP, EVEN IF ONLY A BIT. THUS, IN ITS SUNDAY EDITION, PRIMETIME COVERAGE OF THE PLAY AND ITS AUTHOR, THE NEW YORK TIMES INCLUDED TWO OTHER PIECES: ONE WAS ON MA-YI, A DECADE-OLD NONPROFIT FILIPINO-AMERICAN THEATER GROUP HEADED BY RALPH PEÑA AND JORGE ORTOLL. THE OTHER ARTICLE, BY RANDY GENER, DREW ON THE WRITER'S RECOLLECTIONS OF GROWING UP DURING MARTIAL LAW.

Those of us who live here of course always desire to see more critical attention paid to the creative works—whether in theater, literature, dance, the visual arts, etc.—of Pinoy artists who have made this city by the Hudson a second home. Still, having lived here now for three decades, I am cynical when it comes to the attention span of the media and the American public, which is impeccably clueless regarding Filipinos in their midst. Because of our names and temperament, we're thought to be Latino, and in so many ways we are. And as Asians we remain problematic, since we don't fit the East Asian image that the popular imagination equates with being Asian. We ain't Chinese or Japanese.

"Dogeaters" – which (for those of you who have not read the novel) has nothing to do with *pulutang aso* – gives the theatergoer a vivid idea of our context. With its overarching variety-show structure, wild variety of characters, and a 1980s martial-law Manila that is steeped in moral degradation and corruption, the play captures the melodramatic flavor of a dog-eat-dog world, where people desperately try to stay alive. Expertly staged, the play has flaws, the main one being Rio's story. Essential to the novel, here it proves extraneous to the play's dramatic catalyst, the assassination of an opposition senator (based on Ninoy Aquino). His murder has a chilling effect on two sets of characters and their rather grim lives: the mulatto hustler Joey Sands and Daisy Avila, the beauty queen turned guerrilla; and the ill-starred working-class lovers, Trinidad and Romeo. "Dogeaters" nevertheless renders accurately and savagely the insidiousness of a feudalistic Catholic society and the extent to which mindless American pop culture has taken root.

I had the opportunity to discuss America's colonial influence at a panel discussion held before one performance. With the playwright as the interpellator, the other discussant was journalist Stanley Karnow—author of a book on the Philippines, "In Our Image" (later made into a three-part series for public television) and of an earlier Pulitzer-winning work on Vietnam. The discussion proved to be quite lively, due to, as it turned out, our diametrically opposed views. As in his book, Karnow's views on American colonialism are typical of the American neo-liberal, not quite dealing with the inherent injustice and immorality of the 1899 Philippine-American War (so eloquently assailed by Mark Twain), and the occupation that ensued, instead harping on the many personal friendships and warm relationships that followed. The subtext of this approach, of course, is the essential chumminess of the ordinary Joe and by extension the benevolence of American colonial rule.

At any rate, the panel discussion brought home to me yet again how precious little the American public knows about those parts of our histories that are intertwined. At one point I asked the audience how many had heard of the 1899 War. Out of about 70 people present, I counted about five hands raised. In contrast, almost everyone knew something about the Spanish-American War, one that lasted a mere three months and cost nowhere as much in lives and financial expenditures as did the war against the Filipinos and their government — anywhere from 250,000 to a million mostly civilian casualties. At the end, I certainly hoped the discussion opened the audience's eyes (much in the same way I hoped the play did) to the complex ambiguities of history, whether present or past. But it also left me feeling somewhat depressed. It wasn't so much the idea that official narratives, unchallenged, obscure rather than enlighten, oppress rather than liberate. It was more the sense of our complicity as Filipinos in the construction of the infamous colonial mentality. Everytime we prefer canned pineapple juice to the fresh thing—as a character in the play does—we make it that much harder to unmask ourselves and confront history.

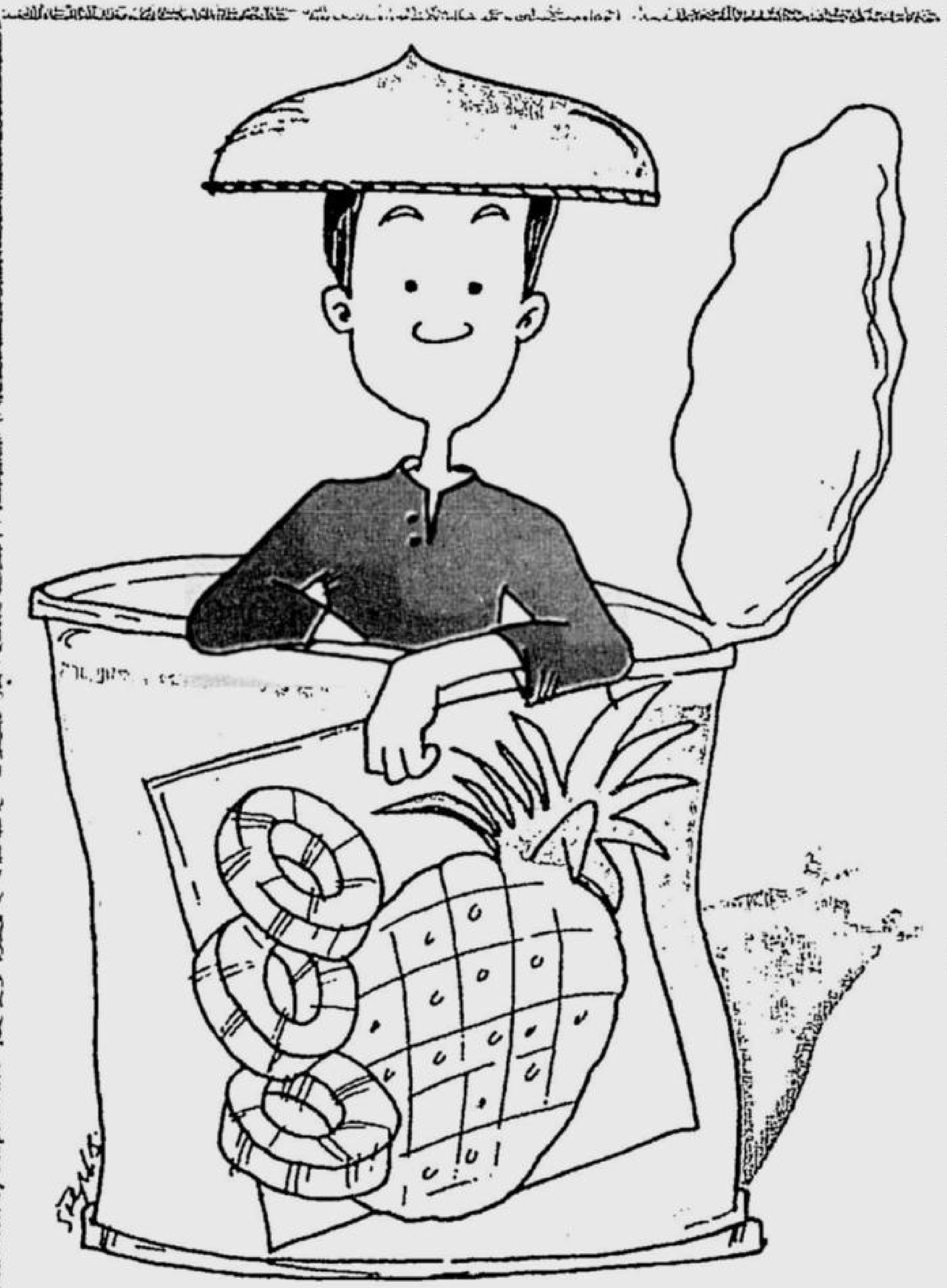

Illustration by Steph Bravo

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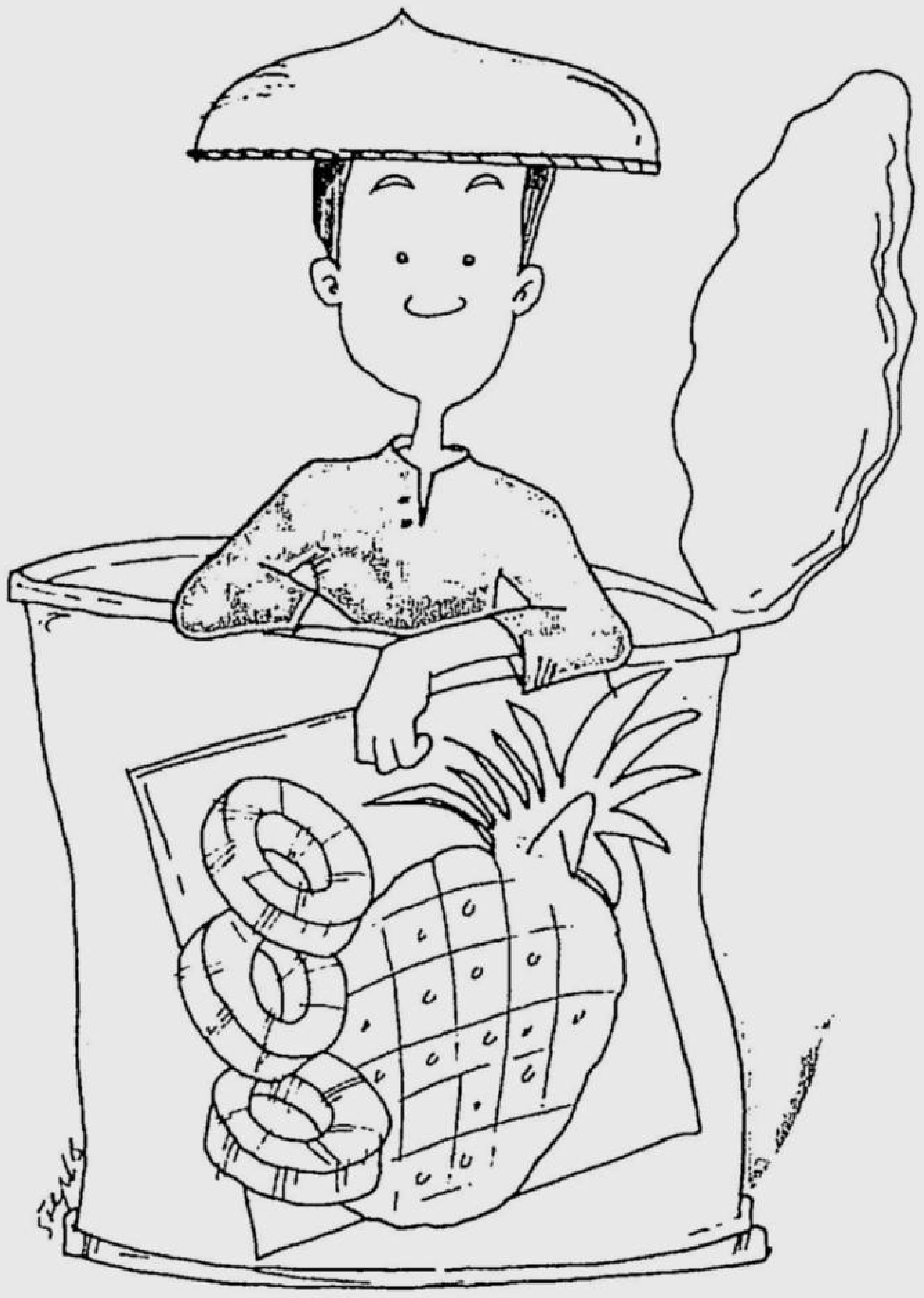


Illustration by Steph Bravo

Poetry

Cocoon

Sa sangdaigdigang tauo,
Pagca buhay na totoo,
Poon cong si Jesu Christo
—Mahal na Passion

Here is redemption's spell:
brown pupa hanging,
furry as the tamarind pod.
Gently, it folds
the creature's wings.

In oriole blooms and red,
the lilies glide on the pond.
The summer's flame curls
the tree's leaves—
olive-green turning
deep into the shadow,
condensing into a shroud.

And the caterpillar's crawl
to self-imposed slumber
declares the infallibility
of its rebirth:

Break away from gravity's pull,
and let the body sprout wings,
dance to the mistral's temper,
flap left into lightness,
right into radiance,
shining in your flight.

In the flaming eve
of April, Christ sleeps
in the caterpillar's chamber,
and the beasts of the ark
wait, the mystery quivering
in their repentant heart—

Joy of the dawn rising
with red, redeeming wings:
Christ, the monarch
butterfly.

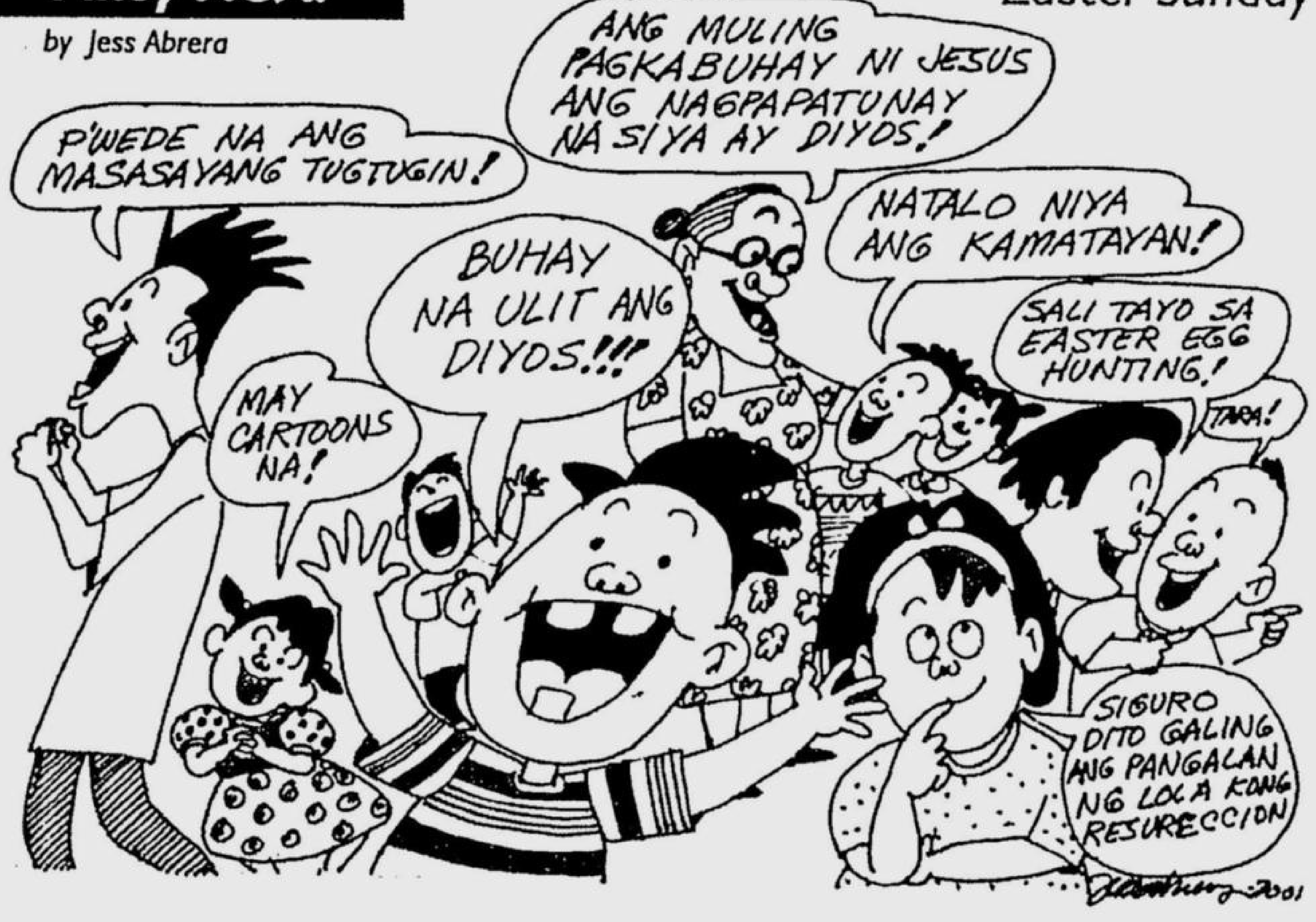
Danilo Francisco Reyes

The Sunday Inquirer Magazine is accepting contributions for our regular poetry section. Interested contributors should send a printed a copy of the poem (which may be in English or Filipino) together with a self-addressed stamped envelope to Ruel S. De Vera, poetry editor, Sunday Inquirer Magazine, Chino Roces (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Mascardo and Yague Streets, Makati City 1263, or e-mail to <sim@inquirer.com.ph>

Pinoy NGA!

by Jess Abrera

Easter Sunday


P'WEDE NA ANG MASASAYANG TUGTUGIN!
ANG MULING PAGKABUHAY NI JESUS ANG NAGPAPATUNAY NA SIYA AY DIYOS!
NATALO NIYA ANG KAMATAYAN!
BUHAY NA ULIT ANG DIYOS!!!
SALI TAYO SA EASTER EGG HUNTING!
MAY CARTOONS NA!
TARA!
SIGURO DITO GALING ANG PANGALAN NG LOLA KONG RESURECCION
2001

FIRST PERSON...from page 5

A lot of people think that only writers, editors, teachers and other word-based professionals need to bother themselves with the importance of words.

Consider, for a moment, these made-up brands and you'll see how important word combinations and associations can be:

Jollibee Hardware McDonalds Sanitary Napkins

Triumph Hamburgers Colgate-Palmolive Bank

PCI-Equitable Ladies Underwear Magnolia Appliances

Sony Fruits and Vegetables Rustan's Plumbing Services

In the end, knowing how to use the right words can spell the difference in all our relationships – at work, at home, in the larger society we live in. And like it or not, the quality of our relationships holds the meaning of our entire life.

So the next time someone says, "Your short story is putrid, you'll never make it as a writer," or "You are an asshole," just say to yourself that he or she never learned to use the right words – and move on.

HIS WORLD...from page 5

Favorite spot on earth?
Behind my lens

What/who inspires you?
People with dreams, people with vision – passionate people who aren't afraid to go after their dreams.

What's the one thing that you don't have that you wish you had?
My own island

What relaxes/upsets you?
I'm a control freak. It frustrates me when things happen and I have no control over them, such as people canceling appointments or resetting them at the last minute.

What do you think is your greatest achievement so far?
"Bagets"!!! Just kidding. But seriously, it's that people still remember my songs and my movies and that even at this point in my life, I have a new career and people appreciate what I do.

What's a trait you deplore in yourself/others?
Maybe sometimes I take myself too seriously. I hate it when people speak without thinking.

What do you believe makes you different?
Everybody's different. Everyone has different abilities and gifts, personalities and characters. That's why I love photographing them. You never run out of things to discover.

What's something you still want to do in life?
Photograph the world

How do you overcome obstacles and problems in life?
By the sheer grace of God. I pray and ask for help and depend on Him.

The greatest teaching that you have learned so far from life?
That if you live it for yourself it might be fun, but later on you will realize that it wasn't much of a life. I don't think God needs anything from me, but if I offer up my life to Him, I know He'll allow me to make a difference, no matter how small. Now that's what I'd call a life.

For comments please e-mail asd_world@hotmail.com

This Week

Art

Zen Fantasy. Rachy Cuna offers exquisite Japanese and Japanese-inspired items at the MetShop of the Metropolitan Museum of Manila until April 30. For details, call 526-0724.

Sining Contemporario showcases 75 artworks from the MET's collection of 1990s arts by noted Filipino artists until April 30. For details, call 523-7855.

Nature, a solo exhibit by Gamaliel Subang featuring landscapes and seascapes in oil from April 18 to May 2 at the ABC Galleries, 1911 M. Adriatico St., Malate, Manila.

Enjoy a fun Easter at Makati Shangri-La

Edsa 1986 and Beyond, a photo exhibit by Sonny Camarillo on the 1986 Edsa Revolution including the making of People Power II from April 18-30 at the Ayala Mall, Glorietta, Makati.

Semana Sena III, an exhibit in oil of the Blessed Virgin Mary by Fernando Sena until April 17 at Gallery 139, SM Megamall Bldg. A.

Music

Moonstar88 gig schedule for the month: April 18—Freedom Bar, Anonas; April 20—SM City, Cebu; April 22—SM City, Iloilo; April 27—Tower Records, Glorietta and at the FoodPark, Enterprise Bldg.; April 28—Tower Records, Alabang.

sessiOnroad April gig sked: April 16, 23, 30—Nth degree, Malate; April 25-26—Freedom Bar, Anonas, QC.

City Lite Live! The Ultimate Bar Tour presents Parliament Syndicate at Ibarra's Garden & Grill in Malate on April 18, and Passage at Streetlife, Makati on April 25.

Concert at the Park presents recording artists Ron Antonio, Melija and Martina as they bring Original Pilipino Music closer to the masses on April 15 at the Rizal Park. Admission is free.

Joey@92.3 FM salutes the graduates with **Thank God It's Over** on April 20 with an all-night street party at the Nakpil strip of Malate featuring the Mulatto band. Joey's Night Rhythms returns on April 18 and 25 at Strumm's Makati with Soulid and Toy Symphony. Enjoy Friday nights with flute and guitar music at Seattle's Best at Rockwell, Greenbelt and E. Rodriguez on April 20, 27 and May 4.

For this week's bands and schedules call:

- '70s Bistro: 46 Anonas St., QC (922-0492)
- Hobbit House: 1801 Mabini St., Malate, Manila (521-7604)
- Strumm's: El Pueblo, Ortigas (637-3009)

Onstage

Sangandaan, a musical on the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ presented by the Higher Ground Baptist Mission on April 15, 6 p.m. at the Malabon International Baptist Church. For tickets, call 288-8274.

Food

Makati Shangri-La's **Grand Easter Kiddie Party** kicks off with the traditional Easter morning Mass followed by an Easter egg hunt while the rest of the family can partake of a sumptuous Easter Day brunch with an array of international dishes. There will be a magic show, film showing of "Pokemon," an Easter basket design contest and interactive computer games.

Dine in style and savor luscious seafood dishes this Lenten season at **Gold Ranch** located at Arnaiz Avenue, Makati City. Available for lunch and dinner.

Easter Sunday at Mandarin Oriental starts with an Easter egg hunt at 11 a.m. followed by a Walt Disney show at 1:30 p.m. courtesy of Toy Town. Easter lunch buffets are available at The Brasserie and Tin Hau.

Treat your family and friends to an **Easter Sunday Buffet** of well-loved Filipino and international dishes at The Café Restaurant at Dusit Hotel Nikko Manila.

Manila Midtown Hotel will hold an **Easter Escapade** with exciting activities like Easter egg hunt, magic show, face painting, parlor games, swimming, cartoon viewing and sumptuous feasting.

Tanglaw Coffee Shop of The Legend Hotel offers a different lunch buffet with a wide selection of refreshing salad vegetables, succulent barbecues and homemade *halo-halo* available every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. On Wednesdays, an international lunch buffet will be featured.

Easter at New World Renaissance Hotel offers a lavish buffet of sumptuous dishes at the Coffee Shop with Wizzo the Magical Clown performing amazing tricks after lunch, a puppet show, face painting and an Easter Egg Hunt where great prizes will be given away.

Atbp

Manila Galleria Suites will hold an **Easter Egg Hunt** at the Manansala Hall with the special appearances of Pikachu from Pokemon and Biggles from Dreamscape. Easter Egg Hunt tickets are being sold at the hotel's front office cashier.

The Woman's Way of Self-Defense is holding summer classes beginning April 16 at the Clean Body Clean Mind Health and Fitness Center, 441 Malaya St., Mandaluyong City. For inquiries, call 532-6395.

Relive the suspense, excitement and amusement of the impeachment trial through the **Impeachment: Educational Board Game** now available at the Filipinas Heritage Library for P650. For details, call 892-1801.

OurTurf Summer Workshops 2001 offers a two-week Web Design, Connecting Worlds and E-Commerce Workshops from April 23-May 4 and April 30-May 11 at the Pamantasan ng Makati. It will hold a four-day creative writing workshop on April 24, 26, May 1 and 3 at the Art Pavilion, Ateneo De Manila Campus, Loyola Heights, QC. The workshops are open to kids and teens aged 12-18. For details, call 725-2011.

Kids at Art Summer Workshop is holding basic drawing, painting, and sculpture and crafts classes for children 5 to 12 years old in seven Metro Manila venues. Classes start on April 16. A basic art workshop for teens and adults will also be conducted. Call 414-1954 or 416-9051.

Alabang Town Center hosts **Easter Fun at the Town** with a children's magic show, an Easter egg hunt, parlor games and a mascot meet-and-greet activity for kids aged 3 to 12.

Ayala Museum offers function room rentals for art and other gatherings. Its services extend to conceptualizing, planning and managing special events. For details, call 812-1191 to 97 loc. 126.

Learn the basics of fiction writing, writing for magazines and romance novel writing on April 21 and 22 at the Earthlite, COD Bldg., Cubao. For details, call 417-1521.

The Goethe-Institut Inter Nationes Manila offers **German language courses** as well as Filipino for foreigners from April 23 to June 3. For details, call 722-4671 to 73.

The Lopez Museum is offering an **Arts and Crafts Workshop** for children from April 17 to May 15. The workshop introduces children to drawing and collage work, the use of watercolors and oil pastels and terracotta clay. For details, call 631-2417.

Summer Art Festival for Children at the Ayala Museum offers workshop in painting, drawing, sculpture, arts and crafts, and creative writing starting April 18. For details, call 812-1191 to 97 loc. 130.

Filipinas Heritage Library will host **storytelling sessions for kids** aged 3-10 on April 21 and 28. Admission fee is P75. For details, call 892-1801.

ProActive Center for Training offers **How to Garnish with Fruit and Vegetable Carving Workshop** on April 17 at Triple-V Express, 2/L Bridgeway, SM Megamall. For details, call 823-4947.

MSA Tutorial and Review Center introduces the **Academic Advancement Program**, a course designed to teach students in advance lessons they will take up in school. Offered all-year long to preschoolers, grade school, high school and college students. Schedules of summer reviews are April 16 to May 26, May 7-26, and May 21 to June 9. For inquiries, call 850-6551 and 929-9145.

The Alcove conducts a photography lecture series starting with **Travel Photography 101: Taking Tips from a Pro** on April 21 at the Reading Room of the Filipinas Heritage Library, Makati Avenue. For details, call 892-1801.

Health Dynamics, a pediatrician-ran child care company, will conduct a **seminar on Child Safety** on April 21. For registration, call 637-3029.

Creative Bean is conducting **art workshops** open to all ages. You can enroll at Marymount School, Parañaque (809-4486), Child Learning Center, Santiago Village, Makati (895-2389), Bloomfield Academy, Las Piñas (874-1513) or at BF Resort Clubhouse (873-7129).

The Sport Psychological Training, Consultancy and Research Center will conduct a **National Seminar-Workshop on Music, Art and Physical Education** on April 18-20 at the Environmental Education Center, Miriam College.

The Ateneo College English Department is offering a **"Great Books" lecture series** for five Saturdays (April 21 to May 19) to be given by the following teachers: Prof. Eric Torres, Dr. Ricky Abad, Danny Reyes, Dr. Susan Evangelista and Dr. Guillermo Pesigan. For details, call 426-6120 or email doe@admu.edu.ph.

X-manila

Legenda Suites in Subic celebrates Easter with an Easter Sunday Egg Hunt where lots of toys, goodies and summer vacations are up for grabs. Kids can join the games and enjoy a hearty meal at the hotel's Highland Café.

Hotshots 2001—A Summer Photography Workshop begins April 16 at the Dagupan City Plaza Museum, Dagupan City delving on comprehensive approach to basic photography and after workshop photo contest. Register at Dagupan PhotoKing, The Mousehouse Internet Café or call (075) 523-0938 for details.

Linangan ng Kasaysayang Bayan, a five-day intensive course on 10 themes of Philippine history from prehistoric to contemporary times open to history and social studies teachers from April 16-22 at the National Food Authority Staff House and Training Center, Loakan Road, Baguio City. For details, call 926-1088 or (074) 442-2427.

The Genluna Gallery in Davao City is offering **basic and advanced oil painting classes** from April 16-28. For details, call (082) 226-2104.

The Sunday Inquirer Magazine welcomes listings of events in and outside Metro Manila. Please send announcements at least two weeks in advance, and include contact numbers for inquiries on schedules and tickets. You can reach us by e-mail at sim@inquirer.com.ph or by fax at 897-4811.

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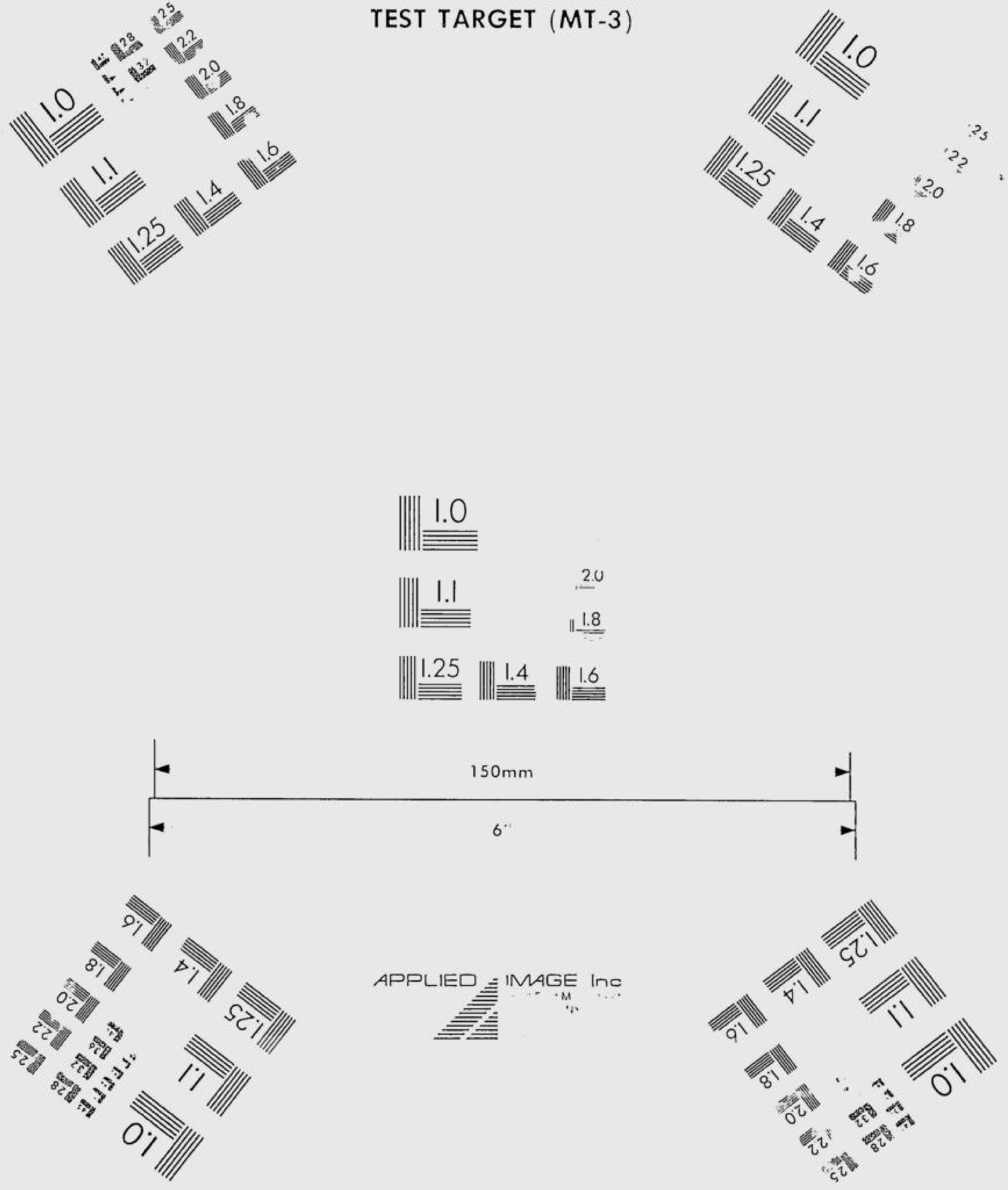
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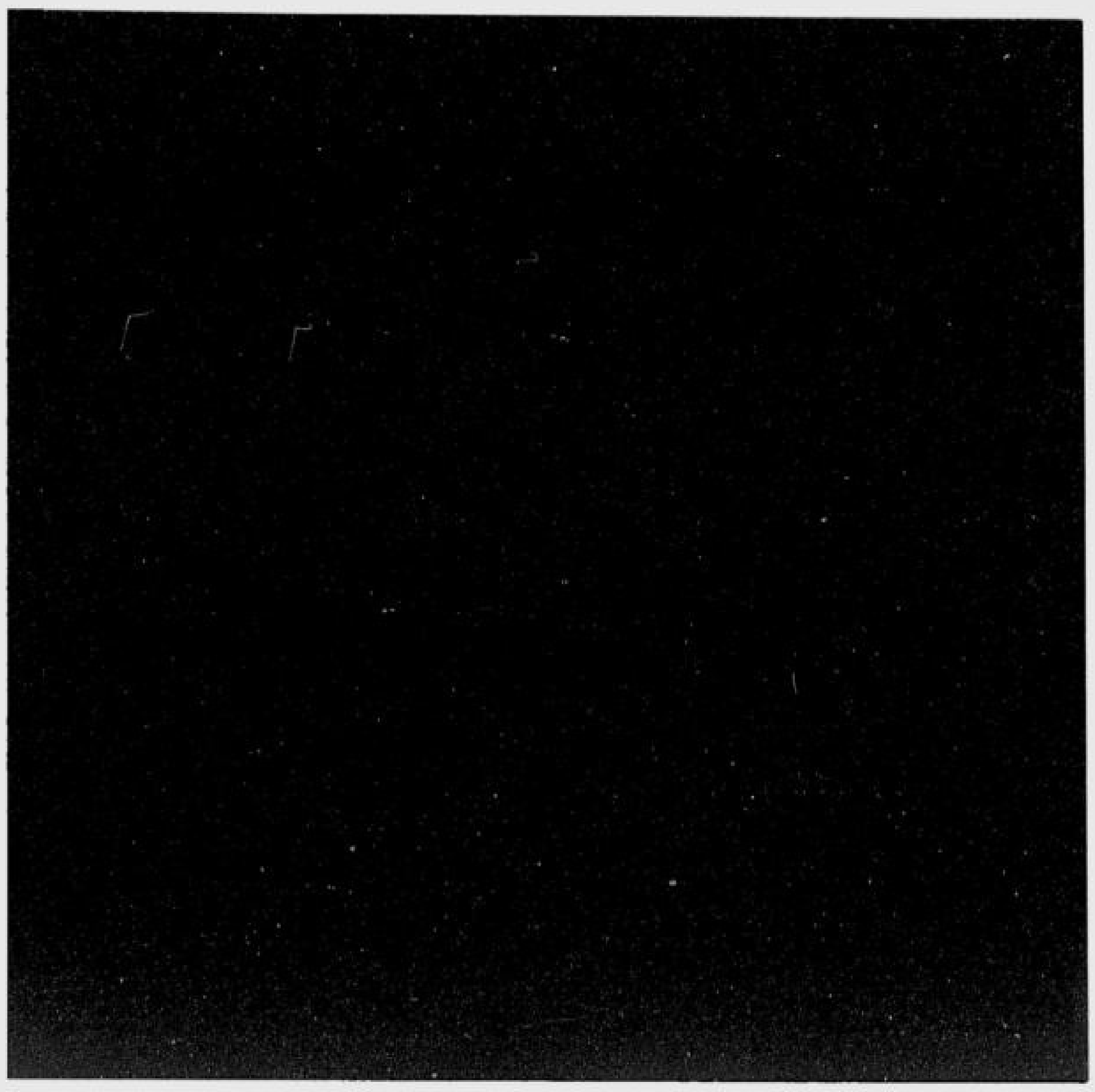

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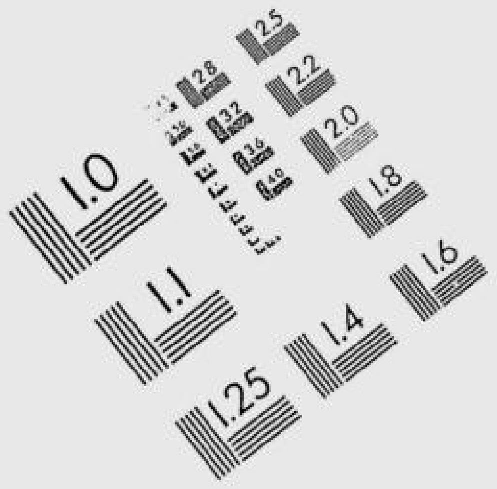
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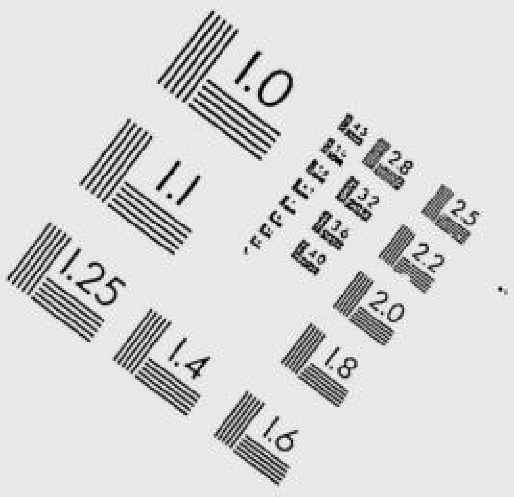
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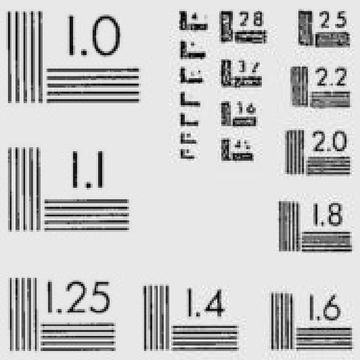
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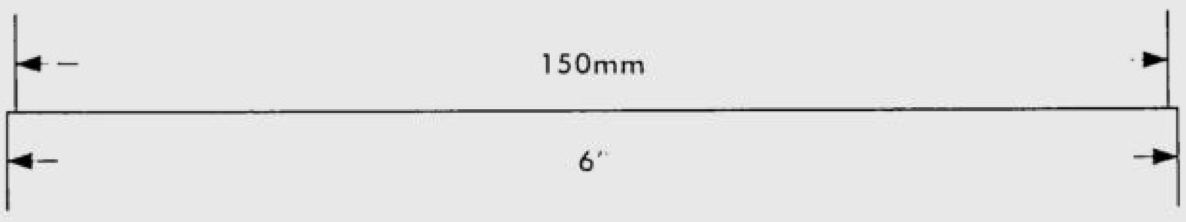

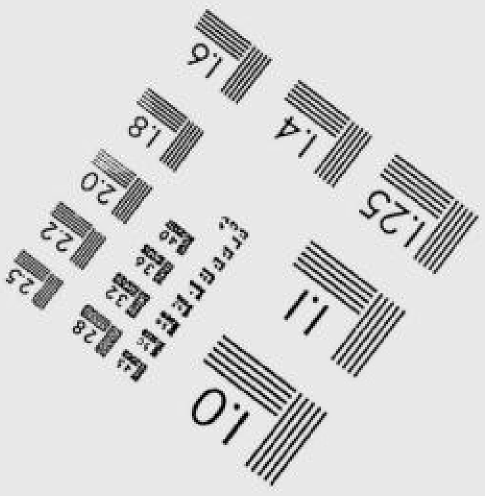
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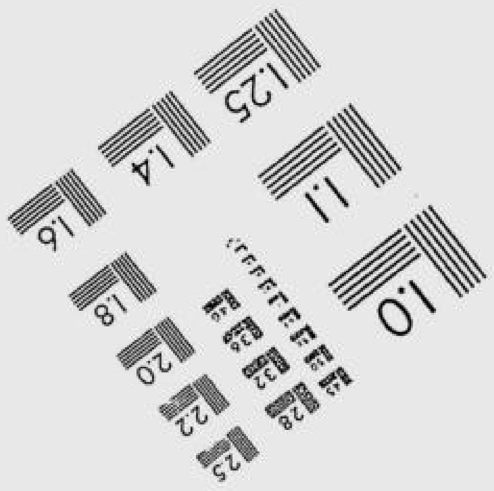
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